



**SOUTH AFRICA'S PREMIER EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE**

**COMPETITION  
EVENTERS IN RIO**  
Meet SA's Olympic  
hopefuls

**BUSINESS  
HOLIDAY CARE**  
Can the temp groom  
do the trick?

**HEALTH  
VACCINE UPDATE**  
Why have AHS  
protocols changed?



**HQ ARAB**  
Arabians in focus:  
Profiles, events,  
influential stallions

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# ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS ...

**GIFTS, HOLIDAYS AND  
ACTIVITIES FOR THE HORSE LOVER**





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**James:** Horsecare boy's Pique Polo shirt. **Kiara:** Horsecare girl's Pique Polo shirt, Horsecare kids denim breeches, Horsecare knee-length socks. **Skyra:** Horsecare girl's Pique Polo shirt, Horsecare kids knitted Classic jodhpurs, Horsecare knee-length socks



**Shari:** Shirt Spooks red Team, Breeches Spooks royal Ricarda, Jacket Spooks navy Honey



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## EXPERTS



### ZANETA GEORGIADES

Zaneta is a Straightness Training Trainee Instructor participating in the 2015 Instructor Program and she will be licensed as a Level 3 Straightness Training Instructor in 2016.



### DR ADRIENNE VILJOEN

Dr Adrienne Viljoen is the internal medicine specialist at Fourways Equine Clinic in Blue Hills, Kyalami. [www.fourwaysequine.co.za](http://www.fourwaysequine.co.za) or contact 011 468 3393.

### DAWN MANSFIELD

Dawn is a lecturer for the National Diploma in Equine Science at the Tshwane University of Technology. She has studied biting and has in-depth knowledge and understanding of bits.

## REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS



### MANDY SCHRÖDER

Mandy started riding at the age of six and never outgrew her passion for horses. She has a National Diploma in Equine Studies Stud Management and Breeding, she qualified as an Assistant Racehorse Trainer and was a qualified showing judge for a number of years.

She is particularly passionate about dressage and her beautiful Dutch stallion.



### CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE

I am currently finishing my degree at the University of Pretoria while working for *HQ* and riding my horses. I have been an equestrian enthusiast for as long as I can remember. I have a particular passion for showjumping and Straightness Training. I am very fortunate to be

taught by some of SA's best riders, and I hope I can inspire and pass on knowledge to our readers.

# Welcome



PHOTO: ASHLEIGH K PHOTOGRAPHY  
(ASHLEIGHKPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.ZA)

It's been a bittersweet year for many equestrians. In October, we lost a pillar of our community when Charlotte Stubbs passed away. Few riders have been untouched by the work she did for our sport. Di Pieterse's tribute on page 6 is a moving reminder of how much we owe this amazing woman ... and how important it is for us to keep the torch lit. On the upside, during our coverage of this year's Galencia Property SA Derby – the 50th anniversary of this event – we had a chance to rub shoulders with some of SA's legends, including Anneli Drummond Hay, Peter Gotz, Ernie Hayward, Mickey Louw and Gonda Betrix, who are still going strong! We plan to meet up with these riders in the new year to share their stories with you.

South African equestrianism is going through some amazing changes, and it's heart-warming to see so many people working to rebuild the structures necessary to keep things on track. Our Olympic eventing team is a lovely example of what can be achieved when we work together. I think you'll love our next piece in the *Road to Rio* series this month (on page 12), in which we speak to the four amazing riders who are currently campaigning for South Africa in Europe.

This month we also look at some of the practicalities of horse ownership. If you've

been frustrated in the past by the fact that your December holidays coincide with six weeks of AHS vaccination 'downtime', you're probably delighted with the new guidelines, which recommend that horses be vaccinated before the end of October. On page 45, Dr Adrienne Viljoen explains why things have changed, and the benefits of compliance.

If, on the other hand, you have a family vacation planned for the festive season, you may find the holiday period stressful, particularly if



SOUTH AFRICAN  
EQUESTRIANISM IS GOING  
THROUGH SOME AMAZING  
CHANGES



your horses are stabled at home. On page 52 in *Holiday staff*, we offer some simple advice on how to avoid unhappy incidents.

So, with the holidays in mind, I wish you a warm and happy festive season with your loved ones – and your horses, of course! Relax, refresh, regroup ... and take #TimeToRide.

Brigitte Billings | Editor

Brigitte



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### ON THE COVER

Wietse Sport from the Mooikloof Friesian Stud owned by Esmé Venter (bridle from Sandra Jahnke of Baroque Tack in Germany)  
Photography: Jaco Wiid, Meilleur Ami Photography

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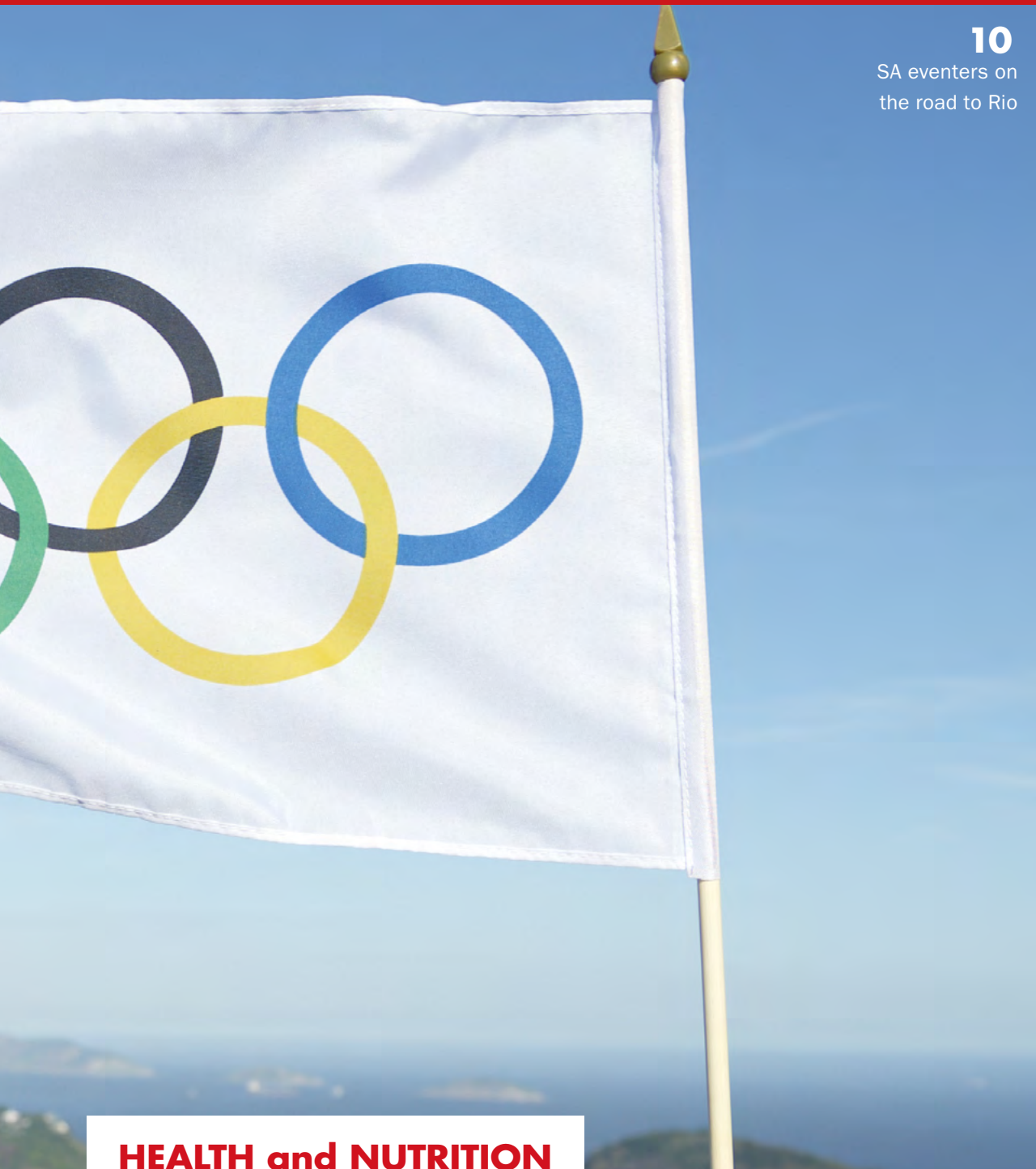
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## YOUR PRODUCTS

Do you have a product or service you would like to share with our readers? Contact us at [charlotte@panorama.co.za](mailto:charlotte@panorama.co.za) to provide more information.

# DIVINE EQUINE

The latest trending equestrian products

## JUST IN CASE

Worried about damaging your phone while riding? Well, now you don't have to. **Just-in-Case**, developed by local gadget development company, TNKR, has taken the local smartphone accessory market by storm. Just-in-Case is a specially developed Monprene smartphone impact grip case that fits onto any standard smartphone. It adds bounce and can absorb the impact of a fall from 1.2m onto a flat surface – we tried it, so your smartphone doesn't have to!

It also adds grip, which means your smartphone is less likely to slip out of your hands, and its patented corner spheres give your device the elevation it needs to avoid damage from liquid spills. It comes in a rainbow range of colours, and with an affordable price tag. Order online at [www.tnkr.co.za](http://www.tnkr.co.za).

**WIN**

This month, TNKR is giving away three smartphone impact grip cases. To enter, email [charlotte@panorama.co.za](mailto:charlotte@panorama.co.za) with 'Just-in-Case' in the subject line, and your details in the body. Competition ends 31 December 2015.



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## GET THE LOOK

**Fair Play** is a trendy new brand in South Africa, distributed through Equestrian Diva Couture. The unique Gloria jacket is for women who value both elegance and comfort.

It features velvet inserts with jets, as well as embroidery, and it's made from an extremely flexible, breathable, soft-shell fabric. To stand out in the show ring, visit Equestrian Diva Couture in Equifox Park, Kyalami, contact 011 468 3717, visit [www.equestriandivacouture.co.za](http://www.equestriandivacouture.co.za) or email [shez@equestriandivacouture.co.za](mailto:shez@equestriandivacouture.co.za).



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# A TRIBUTE TO Charlotte Stubbs

TEXT: DI PIETERSE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

SA bids farewell to a legend



understood her shyness in new company, which some folk took to be aloofness. They couldn't have been more wrong.

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Never a person to brag of her achievements, Charlotte won the McIvor Scholarship for Art at Cape Town University. She was also an accomplished soprano, singing in the choir at St Michael's church in Bryanston.

Charlotte's contributions to equestrian sport in general and equestrian education in particular are nothing short of spectacular. Irrespective of discipline, code or career, breed of horse or geographic location, anyone and everyone who has a love for the horse has been touched by her lifelong dedication, either from meeting Charlotte in person, or having been the recipient of her passion and knowledge.

This commitment was recognised by the International Olympic Committee, who presented her with a certificate acknowledging her contributions to equestrian sport in South Africa.

## A LOVE OF HORSES

Charlotte's love of horses manifested from a young age and this love drove her to achieve an unsurpassed lifetime career with these wonderful animals. She was an accomplished multi-discipline horsewoman – particularly in showjumping. In one year alone, she won the showjumping championships in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and two championships in what was then Rhodesia. Her two horses at this time were Himalaya and Rokosovsky.

**W**ere South Africa to publish an A-list of equestrian celebrities, Charlotte Stubbs would undoubtedly be close to the top, if not heading the list.

Born Charlotte Ann Crole-Rees, over and above her monumental equestrian achievements, Charlotte was first and foremost a loyal and loving wife to David for 60 years, mother to Matthew, Richard and Fiona, and grandmother to their children. The Stubbs family are all accomplished equestrians in their own right, with Charlotte and David acknowledged as undisputed legends in the South African equestrian arena. Their

contributions and combined skills in this field are formidable and unmatched.

## TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Friendships that Charlotte forged over the years were permanent and true. Always loyal, she took a keen interest in the lives of her friends. Her advice and guidance were sound and generous and she will be remembered most for the inspiration she instilled, for her friends to be the best they can be. Charlotte had a wonderful sense of humour and dry wit, the timing of which could be very, very funny. For those who knew her well, we also

“

CHARLOTTE, WE SALUTE YOU. YOU WILL BE FOREVER MISSED AS A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE. OUR MEMORIES OF YOU AS OUR 'FEARLESS LEADER' SUSTAIN US. YOUR LEGACY AND INSPIRATION LIVE ON

”



At the FEI Instructors' Convention



Teaching a student ... education remained her primary passion



Charlotte and Di Pieterse at a Derby lunch

Charlotte qualified with top honours as a BHS instructor. She credited her instructor in Ireland, Major Siva Kulesza, a 1936 Polish Olympic competitor, as her inspiration, who built on the enlightened teaching of her South African instructor, Theo de Klerk. Charlotte was the first person in South Africa to be recognised as an international showing judge. In addition, she qualified as an equitation judge and dressage judge.

## AN EDUCATOR

Although involved with all facets of equestrianism, education was Charlotte's primary focus. In 1971 she implemented the discipline of equitation in South Africa with the first National Final competition held at the International Indoor Show at Miner Park in September that year. This new equestrian discipline was based on the American Junior Equitation Plan of stylish but effective and educated riding. Charlotte spent time with American Olympic rider and USA team trainer, George Morris, to bring this plan to reality.

*"Thursday 16 September 1971 will always remain in my memory as one of the most heart-warming days of my life. The polish and superb horsemanship of the finalists brought home to me what can be achieved in*

*the years to come if only 10 months have already done so much. I feel convinced that the BP Equestrian Plan is the best thing that has ever happened to equestrian sport in South Africa."* **President of SANEF, Mr Willie Angus – published in Horse and Hound SA January 1972**

Charlotte's values to unify standards, methods and style of riding and instruction countrywide were taken a step further when, at the request of SANEF in 1976, she founded the SANEF National Instructors' Plan (now named the SA National Instructors' Plan and steered by the Equestrian Qualifications Authority of Southern Africa). Inspired by what she had learned at the first FEI Instructors' Convention in 1971, Charlotte set about drafting a syllabus for South Africa. When the Instructors' Plan was launched, it became the second formal testing system for riding instructors in the world, BHS being the first.

The Instructors' Plan initially catered exclusively to a qualifications system for riding instructors, but as its popularity grew and in keeping with the changing landscape, the Instructors' Plan also began evaluations for people who did not want to specifically ride or teach for a living. The involvement of the Instructors' Plan now sees it catering to the assessment needs of anyone in the horse industry, riding and non-riding,

whether they be riding instructors, coaches of competition disciplines, tourism trail leaders, grooms or mounted police. Charlotte's vision sees the Plan catering to all three educational bands in South Africa: General Education and Training (grade 12 Equine Studies); Further Vocational Education and Training; and Higher Education and Training, involving some 60 vocations with horses.

From a beginning of 12 assessments in its first year, the Plan now conducts in excess of 600 in South Africa and countries north of our borders. In 1996, the SA Instructors' Plan was invited to join the International Group for Equestrian Qualifications and for the last 12 years we have had a seat on the executive committee. This august international organisation has as its mission to harmonise instructor qualifications among its member countries.

That two South African equestrian educational initiatives have been in place and have grown to reach all corners of the country for 44 and 40 consecutive years respectively, is testament to the drive and dedication of this incredible lady.

**Charlotte, we salute you. You will be forever missed as a friend and colleague. Our memories of you as our 'fearless leader' sustain us. Your legacy and inspiration live on. 🐾**

# NEWS



Breeders are advised to maintain CEM screening programmes

## CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS UPDATE

Contagious equine metritis (CEM) was identified in South Africa in 2011. Follow-up investigations identified an additional 35 cases until 2013. All cases were successfully treated.

In order to protect all horse owners in South Africa, the current CEM testing requirements are three genital swabs that will continue to apply to all breeding stallions, either by natural mating or artificial insemination. The Equine Research Centre will issue a CEM clearance certificate for the stallion. The reason for continuing with the screening programme is three-fold. The individual testing of breeding stallions is a practical way for owners to protect their horses from disease. Secondly, the screening is a feasible and cost-effective way to detect CEM. Thirdly, ongoing surveillance will be required if South Africa is to put forward their claim of remaining free of the disease.

Stallion owners must ensure that their horses are tested annually. Owners of horse semen must be aware of the risks involved with disease transmission from frozen semen and should ensure that the semen has been collected from horses who have a CEM clearance certificate. Mare owners should be just as cautious. Veterinarians should ensure that their clients are informed about the risks of CEM.

The co-operation of all members in the horse industry regarding CEM screening is much appreciated by South Africa's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



Peace of mind for animal lovers

## SWISS RIDERS CLEARED AFTER HORSES FAILED DRUG TESTS

Swiss riders Steve Guerdat and Alessandra Bichsel have been exonerated after their horses failed drug tests. It was discovered that there was poppy-seed contamination in the horses' feed.

The case against Guerdat arose after samples were taken from his ride, Nino des Buissonnets, at the CSI05\* at La Baule, and tested positive for the banned substances codeine and oripavine, and the controlled medication, morphine. Samples were also taken the day before the same event from Guerdat's other ride, Nasa. The horse tested positive for codeine and morphine.

The case against Bichsel arose after samples were taken from her ride, Charivari KG, at the

Young Riders event in Deauville. The horse also tested positive for codeine, oripavine and morphine.

The positive drug tests resulted in both riders being provisionally suspended for two months. After investigation, the FEI agreed that the positives were caused by poppy-seed contamination and the riders were cleared of any wrongdoing. Guerdat and Bichsel used the same feed supplier. Federation president, Charles Trollet, said: "For the world of equestrian sports, the FEI and the national federations, as well as for the animal feeds sector, we now have to draw the right lessons from this unpleasant story and take appropriate measures."

Source: [Horsetalk.co.nz](http://Horsetalk.co.nz)

## NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS OWNERS MANAGE BODY FAT

British horse manufacturer, Spillers, has developed an online tool that will help horse owners monitor their horses' body condition. The body condition index (BCI) calculator, which works in conjunction with the body condition scoring tool, allows owners to calculate their horses' body condition using mobile and tablet devices.

BCI is based on body measurements that correlate with body fat percentage. Using four body measurements, a mathematical equation is used to calculate a score from one to nine. Accurate monitoring of fat can help monitor and control obesity. The online tool can also assist in tracking a horse's progress with gaining or losing weight.

Clare Barfoot, nutritionist from Spillers, said that body condition scoring is widely recognised as an important way to monitor condition on a regular basis. "The new BCI tool should help owners to check their accuracy of body condition scoring and become more confident and efficient with it. The important end goal is for more effective weight management programmes and healthier horses," said Clare.

Visit [www.spillers-feeds.com/help-and-advice/BCi/](http://www.spillers-feeds.com/help-and-advice/BCi/) to calculate your horse's BCI.

Source: [Horsetalk.co.nz](http://Horsetalk.co.nz)



PHOTOGRAPHY: TB IMAGES

## GALENCIA PROPERTY SOUTH AFRICAN DERBY 2015

Held at Equestrian Park in Gauteng from 5 to 10 October 2015

1. Arco 360's Candice Hobday and Clement Ndlovu present the remarkable Grand Prix mare Filina at her retirement ceremony
2. A salute to the officials
3. Spectators examine the bank during the public course-walk
4. Previous SA Derby winners get the royal treatment: Gonda Betrix, Ernie Hayward and Mickey Louw
5. Nicole Dewar at the auction of Derby Harry – Antonio Pappalardo and Bennie du Plessis of Uretrek won the bid at R40,000
6. Tracy Gogle and Joanne Pursey of the Highveld Horse Care Unit with their team of helpers



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# The big event!

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGSE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF THE RIDERS

SA eventers on the road to Rio

In the September issue of *HQ* (103), we introduced South Africa's dressage campaigners for the Olympic Games in Rio next year. We highlighted the tremendous effort and expense involved in representing our country at the highest level, and continue to wish these riders well on their incredible journey.

This month we look at the eventing sphere. With the support of Investec, and under the guidance of Captain Mark Phillips, our strong team of riders looks well prepared for the challenge ahead. Here's a look at who they are.

## SOUTH AFRICA'S EVENTING CAMPAIGNERS

**Team trainer:** Captain Mark Phillips  
Alex Peternell  
Hayley Parker  
Stuart Fitzgerald  
Victoria Scott

## ALEX PTERNELL

### Where are you stationed and who is your regular trainer?

I am based in a village called Kington Langley, aptly named The Stables. My regular trainers are Emile Faurie, who also grew up in SA; Rowland Fernyhough; and recently, thanks to the help of Investec, Captain Mark Phillips.

### Tell us about your horses.

I am in a very fortunate position to have two horses qualified for Rio. The oldest and most experienced is AP Uprising. He is very intelligent and at times a rather cheeky horse. He can be exuberant at times, but loves his work and has always been a pleasure to train.

My other horse is AP Topstar. He is younger, but bold, and has a huge jump to match his huge heart. He is a tall, black horse, who I have to admit wins over everyone's hearts when they meet him. He is a gentle giant, who would do anything I ask of him.

### Describe your training programme – both for you and your horses.

My training programme is very specific to each horse, as I feel every horse is an individual who requires his own specific programme. My training is both in the arena and out. I work hard on my physical fitness and mental strength. I spend many hours going over videos of previous performances and training sessions, working out where my improvements are and need to be. This applies for my horses too. I work closely with a sport psychologist.

### What are your main challenges?

I think like all riders anywhere, time and money are always a challenge. There is always something that you need to prioritise. I make a point of spending time with my family, which can be tricky when you have a yard full of competition horses and horses for training who require your attention. I am very fortunate to have a great support team around me, which makes this possible.

### How does riding abroad differ from the SA scene?

In the UK, the weather can be rather unpredictable, but that is a challenge that we have to accept if we want to compete in a country that is home to most of the world's best eventers. The other difference,



and the reason why I am based in the UK, is that there are much more competitions at all levels, and it is very competitive. As a rider you need to be on your game to get somewhere. Competition breeds better competitors.

### Describe the international competition circuit in terms of event management, judging, and the like.

The international circuit is very professionally done. Obviously every show differs, but the judges and officials are very experienced – even the volunteer jump judges! The standard of courses and going is almost always very good, and the organisers will pull out all the stops to ensure good going for the horses. For example, at an event I recently competed in, the ground was

firm, so they had several tractors working through the night, aerovating and watering the track. The going was perfect by morning.

The level of competition is also very high. We compete against world and Olympic champions ... but also some amateur riders who compete as a hobby. Whatever level you may be, all the riders are very supportive of one another.

### Do you feel accepted as a foreign rider overseas?

I am one of many foreign riders in the UK. All the officials and riders are kind, supportive and helpful. We really are like an oversized family. We are fiercely competitive and try our hardest to beat one another, but like with families, when anyone wins we are thrilled and proud of them.

## HAYLEY PARKER

### Where are you stationed and who is your regular trainer?

I stable my horses at the beautiful Membury Estate, near Lambourn. The area is ideal for event riders to prepare their horses for competition, with gallops dotted around the countryside, cross country schooling a short ride away, and lots of showjumping venues within an hour's drive. We are incredibly lucky at the yard, from the care that the horses receive to the facilities available to us. Felicity Roberts, who is head girl at the yard, has an eye for detail, has groomed for top riders at all the big events and is often featured in the *Horse & Hound* for her turning-out tips!

I've been training with Captain Mark Phillips since June this year. He has been instrumental in helping me with my horses, and I have learnt a huge amount from him. Mark has this way of understanding a horse's brain and how he processes his training. He is involved in all aspects of my horses, from their fitness to their day-to-day wellbeing; our education doesn't stop when we leave the arena.

### Tell us about your horse.

Pohlunds Cuppuchino (Cuppi) is a South African Warmblood by Concerto out of Pohlunds Windsong. I bought Cuppi from Mandy Mason in 2013. After trying many horses in Europe and the States, I knew that there was something special about Cuppi. Mandy did an incredible job of producing Cuppi and was very successful with

him – I owe a lot of my success to her!

Cuppi has a huge personality that sometimes can be a little overbearing, but I believe it gives him the x-factor. He loves competing, but isn't really one to be fussed over in the stable. He is a little sharp when riding and always keeps me on my toes, but I think that is his sense of humour; he just likes to know if you are still concentrating on him! He is an absolute machine around the cross country. He always tries to jump a clear round in the showjumping and has enough quality to be a pure dressage horse. Cuppi and I are qualified to ride at 4\* level, which is a goal for the not-too-distant future.

### Describe your training programme – both for you and your horse.

I like to keep our training programme varied, so that the horses are not only physically fit, but mentally fit. I try to avoid riding in the school for more than two days in a row, so if I do schooling sessions on a Monday and Tuesday, I will do a 'schooling hack' on Wednesday. I like to vary where I work my horses and the terrain over which I ride them.

In the build-up to a big event, my horses will be galloping every five days, one day off per week, a few hillwork sessions, a gymnastic exercise and a few dressage sessions. I adapt the week's programme to where I feel my horses are at in their fitness or training, but they always get their day off. In the build-up to a few of the bigger shows, I will often practise the test at a different

venue or enter a jumping show to get them into that competition mindset.

### What are your main challenges?

I think the main challenge here is building a network for myself. At home, you grow up knowing all the venues, all the riders and the system. When I moved over here, I started from ground zero – no infrastructure around you, such as grooms, friends or support systems, and I really was just a number in the masses of people who make this sport their profession.

I think that because competing overseas professionally was always something that I aspired to, all of the hardships became inconsequential. Slowly but surely, things have started to fall into place: I have two incredible horses who are at the highest level of the sport, and I have an incredible support team around me, from grooms to farriers, from physios to friends. My horses and I are in the best possible training facility and we have access to one of the best coaches in eventing.

### How does riding abroad differ from the SA scene?

Riding in the UK is a totally different ball game; this is a professional sport. Not only are the horses athletes, but the riders are too. I think the greatest difference is that the UK has the volume of riders where it is quite normal to have well over 700 horses competing at a show.

South Africa has some ground to make up in terms of matching cross country courses to the UK, but I do feel that it is heading in the right direction. I certainly think that South Africa has the quality of horses and riders to be able to compete over here. It did, however, take time for me and Cuppi to get used to riding in mud that comes up to your knees when all he has ever known is hard ground! Another difference is the number of shows that are available over here. You could go out and compete every day of the week at a different venue, all within a few hours' drive.

### Describe the international competition circuit in terms of event management, judging, and the like.

The shows in the UK are professionally managed. Everything is run to schedule and you can complete all three phases within two hours (at an event where there are well over 500 horses competing!). The bigger events like Blenheim are



“WE ARE CREATING A SOUND REPUTATION FOR THE SPORT OF EVENTING IN SOUTH AFRICA”



“

IN 2014 THERE WERE OVER  
66,000 CROSS COUNTRY  
ROUNDS RECORDED IN THE UK!

”

amazing to be at; from riders' tents to beautiful stables, you are always taken care of!

The judging over here can vary from show to show, but there does seem to be consistency between judges. I think you start to learn what the different judges like in terms of performing a test, and can ride accordingly. There are some judges who like you to take risks in your test, while others may reward consistency and accuracy.

#### **Do you feel accepted as a foreign rider overseas?**

I think it has taken time for us to shake off the stigma of being foreign riders. I don't think it has completely gone, but I certainly think that with all of us producing really constant and great results, we are creating a sound reputation for the sport of eventing in South Africa.

I remember when Cuppi and I went to our first show in the UK, riders wouldn't let their horses near him for fear of getting African Horse Sickness (despite me explaining that he had done nearly six months of quarantine and it is not an airborne disease). I am confident that with the current riders who are based here and the ones still to make their way over, we will soon be of the likes of New Zealand and Australia!

## **STUART FITZGERALD**

### **Where are you stationed and who is your regular trainer?**

I am based in Wiltshire – about two hours due west of London. No regular trainer, although during the off season (winter) I do my best to pick up the odd lesson on the flat.

### **Tell us about your horse.**

Fernhill Xquisite (Mo as he's known in the stable) is a Portuguese Sport Horse. I've owned Mo for just over four years, during which time we've competed all over Europe. Mo is a jumping machine and could quite easily have an alternative career as a showjumper. He's quite a character and enjoys his job so much that it's not actually possible to jump him at home – he just gets overexcited and charges about! As a result we spend a lot of time doing pure showjumping, which has really helped our eventing showjumping – in his last four 3\* outings, he's only knocked a single pole.

### **Describe your training programme – both for you and your horse.**

In the middle of the season Mo's schedule is largely determined by our fitness regimen. Mo

swims once a week, gallops once a week, has one recovery day, one quiet hack, and then we use the other three days to school on the flat and/or go showjumping. In addition to my riding, I cycle, swim and go to Pilates to make sure that I'm fit enough too!

### **What are your main challenges?**

My biggest challenge is managing time – as well as the horses, I run a renewable energy merchant in the UK.

### **How does riding abroad differ from the SA scene?**

The biggest difference is the number of competitors – each week in summer there can be five or six events running across the country. In 2014 there were over 66,000 cross country rounds recorded in the UK!

### **Do you feel accepted as a foreign rider overseas?**

Yes, completely. There is a great bunch of foreign riders here – Kiwis, Aussies, Americans, you name it – and there tends to be a great sense of camaraderie between all eventers, foreign or not!



“ ... WHEN 100 COMPETITORS ARE IN A CLASS, A SINGLE DRESSAGE MARK CAN COST YOU 10 PLACES ”

## VICTORIA SCOTT

**Where are you stationed and who is your regular trainer?**

I am based in France with my full-time trainer Rodolphe Scherer.

**Tell us about your horse.**

Song du Magay is a nine-year-old bay Selle Francais gelding. I bought Song two and a half years ago and have very slowly brought him up the grades. He has incredible aptitude and an amazing brain.

**Describe your training programme – both for you and your horse.**

I compete Song regularly at lower levels to maintain his condition and work on performance without pressure and strain. I choose big events that I know have beautiful, well-built courses, good ground, good atmosphere and good competition. At home we have a regular training routine and are lucky enough to have access to amazing beaches for all our fitness work.

**What are your main challenges?**

My main challenge is definitely not being able to speak French! But also financial issues are always a difficulty.

**How does riding abroad differ from the SA scene?**

The biggest difference is the amount of competitors. There can be 120 in one class, making good results that much more difficult to obtain.

**Describe the international competition circuit in terms of event management, judging, and the like.**

The international events are prestigious! There are crowds of spectators, and security to allow access to different areas only to riders, owners and grooms. The level of competition is very high, which makes judging very difficult, as when 100 competitors are in a class, a single dressage mark can cost you 10 places. The courses are usually beautiful, with teams of people looking after every aspect.

**Do you feel accepted as a foreign rider overseas?**

The French are very kind to me. As one of only a handful of foreign riders in France, I am fairly well known. They are intimidated by my English, but are incredibly friendly and helpful to me, as we all attempt to communicate. 🐾

## FROM THE SPONSOR

Investec is proud to be associated with South African eventing by supporting four athletes, each of whom aspires to represent South Africa at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. These athletes celebrate the can-do spirit, energy and determination that produce real winners, and their commitment to reaching their goal is truly inspiring. We wish Hayley, Victoria, Alex and Stuart the best of luck as they continue towards their aim of qualifying for and competing in Rio in 2016.



#### SOUTH AFRICAN 50TH DERBY

THANKS TO DEBBIE DOSANTOS FOR PROVIDING RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF THE DERBY. ENTHUSIASTS WILL FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENT IN THE BOOK *SOUTH AFRICAN 50TH DERBY*, AVAILABLE ON ORDER THROUGH KYALAMI EQUESTRIAN PARK OR SA SHOWJUMPING.

## COMPETITION

THE MIDAS TOUCH

# THE Midas TOUCH

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHY: TB IMAGES,  
CLERISSE PHOTOGRAPHY  
(SCHUTTE.CLERISSE@GMAIL.COM)

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Derby



Anne-Marie Esslinger and Alzu Oregon win the Derby with this year's only clear round

**F**rom its birth on the cricket field of the Inanda Club 50 years ago to the fantastic spectacle at Kyalami Park Club of today, South Africa's Derby is undoubtedly one of our country's premier equestrian events.

With a course based on the world-famous Hickstead Derby, any rider who took the title has been acknowledged as one of the golden boys (or girls) of the showjumping fraternity. It was fitting then that on its golden anniversary, organisers would choose to theme the 2015 Galencia Property SA Derby 'The Midas Touch'.

### LONG HISTORY

The first Derby, won by Ernie Hayward on Beauheira, comprised an obstacle course of walls, stiles, balustrades and water jumps devised by Hickstead founder and course designer Douglas Bunn. The event showed such merit that the Club permitted the team to create sloping ground and feature jumps such as the dyke, the table, the water jump and the wall. Over the years, it

drew in additional disciplines – dressage in 1968, carriage driving and complete horse in 1972, and show horse in 1984.

Apart from a brief move to Pioneer Park in 1996, the Derby remained at Inanda Club for 35 years before moving to Kyalami Equestrian Park in 2000. The move allowed the event to expand its courses, with eight arenas available for the various classes.

### BIG NAMES

During these years, the Derby drew attention from various companies who recognised its branding power. Rothmans, Dunhill, SAP, Avis and now Galencia Properties have all put their name to this prestigious event and many became synonymous with high-level performance thanks to the association.

Likewise, the winners of the Derby have earned a place in history thanks to their victory on this testing field. If you are a horse rider – whether you jump or not – it is unlikely that you do not recognise the names of past winners.

### PAST WINNERS

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Ernie Hayward        | • Lester Sander          |
| • Gert Myburgh         | • Wayne Dale             |
| • Gonda Betrix         | • Gail Foxcroft          |
| • Peter Levor          | • Anne-Marie Esslinger   |
| • Phillip Smith        | • Ronnie Lawrence        |
| • Mickey Louw          | • Bryce McCall           |
| • Tony Lewis           | • Steven Chalom          |
| • Wendy Grayston       | • Barry Taylor           |
| • Peter Gotz           | • Shirley Kemp           |
| • Janie Myburgh        | • Mandy Johnstone        |
| • Errol Wucherpfennig  | • Lynne Piercy           |
| • Lachlan Maclachlan   | • Lorette Knowles-Taylor |
| • Willie Peters        | • Lisa Williams          |
| • Anneli Wucherpfennig | • Jade Hooke             |
|                        | • Nicole Horwood         |

# COMPETITION

THE MIDAS TOUCH

## DERBY FACTS

When the Derby lost its Dunhill sponsorship due to tobacco advertising legislation, it did not run in 1999. The Transvaal Horse Society self-financed the event in 2000. Two years later, after losing its IT sponsor, SAP, Avis stepped in and remained a supporter for 10 years.

This year, spectators had the special privilege of seeing several decades of these riders in the same arena, when past winners joined current competitors to walk the course and also in a special lap of honour. Ernie Hayward (still delighted by the horses after 50 years), joined Peter Gotz, Anneli Drummond-Haye and Gonda Betrix, among others, to share their experiences.

## EVENT-FILLED WEEK

After a week packed with equestrian events, the weekend kicked off with The Derby Ball and Rider Auction on Friday night at Kyalami Equestrian Park, where guests bid on their top contenders to win the coveted title. The young rider Shannon Smith seemed a favourite, raising over R35,000 in the auction (on the day, Shannon and her horse Royal Feeds Vanya W came in 5th place).

But the crowd-puller remained the Derby itself when 24 of South Africa's top showjumpers came together to compete on the gruelling track after four days of qualifying rounds. In an unexpected twist, Anne-Marie Esslinger and Alzu Oregon won the ride with the only clear round, resulting in a class with no jump-off. It was 27 years since Anne-Marie's last win and her talent shone as

## FINAL RESULTS

**1st:** Anne-Marie Esslinger and Alzu Oregon – Penalties: 0 Time: 143.74

**2nd:** Gail Foxcroft and Equifox JFK – Penalties: 4 Time: 147.87

**3rd:** Sonia Kroon and HSB Romulus – Penalties: 6 Time: 155.32

**4th:** Lorette Knowles-Taylor and Nissan Nabab Forever – Penalties: 8 Time: 140.51

**5th:** Shannon Smith and Royal Feeds Vanya W – Penalties: 8 Time: 140.87

**6th:** Ronnie Lawrence and Uretek Armageddon – Penalties: 8 Time: 143.54



Mandy Johnstone and Callaho's Lissabon

clearly as it did in 1987.

They finished with a time of 143.74, followed by Gail Foxcroft on Equifox JFK on four penalties (just a foot in the water) and a time of 147.87, and Sonia Kroon on HSB Romulus on six penalties (one pole down and two time faults) and a time of 155.32.

## PROUD SPONSORS

Galencia Property was the proud sponsor of this year's Derby for the third year in a row, something they consider a huge honour. Being associated with an equestrian sport and a culture of such high prestige is an experience that Galencia value and aim to share with enthusiasts around Africa. 🐾



Anne-Marie and Alzu Oregon take their lap of honour

## OTHER FIRSTS

### First dressage winner:

1968 – Ernst Holtz and Bandit

### First Compleat Horse winner:

1972 – Peter Gotz and Napoleon Bonaparte

### First carriage driving winner:

1972 – Sam Golstein and General de Wet

### First showing winner:

1984 – Cherry Williamson and Jet Store's Westland



Candice Hobday and the PRE stallion, Arco 360's Esclavo, in the impressive stallion parade



A doma vaquera display formed part of the entertainment



Tackling the bank



Shannon Smith and Royal Feeds Vanya W showing good form



Crowd favourite, Team Nissan's Lorette Knowles-Taylor, and the Galloping Grandpa

## TROPHY FACTS



The winner of the Derby is presented with a magnificent bronze trophy – *Certus Spiritus* – a tribute to the skill, courage and perseverance of all riders who reach the pinnacle of success. Cast in the form of a horse's head, it carries a more important dedication – to the horses who carry them to victory. The trophy was created by acclaimed sculptor, Joanne Sullivan.

**THE TEAMS:**  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** SELBY WILLIAMSON, DIRK VAN REENEN, TOM DE BRUIN (CAPTAIN), GARETH EVANS. RESERVE: BRAD MACGIBBON  
**NEW ZEALAND:** HAMISH ORMOND, CRAIG WILSON, JOHN PAUL (JP) CLARKIN (CAPTAIN), THOMAS HUNT. RESERVE: ALLAN BROWNE

# COMPETITION

HARNESSING THE POWER - BMW INTERNATIONAL POLO

## HARNESSING THE POWER

TEXT: CATHERINE HARTLEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF BMW

# BMW POLO

INTERNATIONAL SA vs New Zealand International Polo Series - Sunday 13 September and 20 September 2015

In what is celebrated as one of the longest-running consecutive sports sponsorships in South Africa, 2015 marked the 26th year of partnership between BMW South Africa and the South African Polo Association. With the analogy of high-speed horsepower and powerful horses, it continues to be a perfect melding of luxury brands and experiences.

### WELL BALANCED

This year a well-balanced 23-goal team from New Zealand accepted the invitation to come and play against our national team in the traditional two-test series played a week apart, first at Shongweni in Durban, and then at Waterfall Polo Park in Johannesburg.

### KZN MATCH

The first test match, although exciting, was unfortunately played in rather damp and soggy conditions. It started well for South Africa, who scored four goals during the first two chukkas to hold a commanding 6-3 lead at half-time. The ability and greater experience of wet weather

The match gets off to a start in Shongweni, where New Zealand took the honours ▼



SA's Gareth Evans congratulates John Paul Clarkin on New Zealand's win at Shongweni

SA's Dirk van Reen getting to the ball

Fast-paced polo



conditions of the New Zealand team, especially John Paul (JP) Clarkin, came to the fore in the second half and they fought back strongly, scoring six goals to run out winners by nine goals to eight. The Most Valuable Player (MVP) title was awarded to JP Clarkin, and Brad and Amy Gace's Thoroughbred mare, Greased Lightning, was awarded the Best Playing Pony prize.

## WELCOME BREAK

As is tradition for the visiting teams, the New Zealanders travelled up to Johannesburg on the Monday after the first test to start trying horses lent by members of the local Highveld polo clubs for the second test. However, in what is a highlight for most visiting players, the team always gets to take a break and is graciously hosted by Michael and Norma Rattray at the magnificent Mala Mala Game Reserve for two nights. This trip did not

disappoint and the New Zealand team reported that they had a wonderful time and some very special sightings of the Big Five.

With the South African game experience assigned to memories and photographs by Friday afternoon, it was back to Johannesburg and back to serious polo, riding and trying more horses to form a shortlist to be played in the match on Sunday the 20th.

## GAUTENG MATCH

The second test at Waterfall Polo Park was an opportunity for the South African team to avenge the previous week's loss and they gave their all against the competitive Kiwis in a fast-paced match, to lead 5-2 at half-time. They continued with a relentless drive during the second half, despite a sudden shower of rain in the fifth chukka, to score a further six goals to

New Zealand's four, giving South Africa an 11-6 victory at the final bell.

Young up-and-coming player Dirk van Reenen, who left two days later for a few months of playing in the polo mecca of Argentina, was judged the Most Valuable Player. Local lady Lee-Ann Spark's pony, Star Queen, played by JP Clarkin, was awarded the Best Playing Pony prize – always a great honour for any player.

The win in Johannesburg gave the South African team the winning title for the 2015 BMW International Series, based on total goals scored over the two weekends. Despite the weather, there was no dampening of spirits and the crowds turned out in well-dressed force to enjoy their picnic sites, hospitality marquees and plenty of champagne. It is fast becoming a must-attend event and a definite date on the social calendar, so be sure to pencil it in. 🐾

# COMPETITION

EQUITATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Gauteng Junior Open Equitation  
Provincial Champion, Zahn-Wanda  
Bosman, with judges Dominey  
Alexander and Gregory Goss

# Equitation

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TEXT: AMY BILLETT  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK TOLMAY

Mark White Nissan  
Equitation Super League  
Finals and the Gauteng  
Equitation Provincial  
Championships



The podium awaits! Mark White Nissan Equitation Super League 2015



Mark White Nissan Equitation Super League Junior Intermediate Victrix Ludorum, Chane Blom, with instructor Sigrid Sauter, and runner-up Victoria Butcher



Mark White Nissan Equitation Super League Pony Rider Intermediate Victrix Ludorum, Hanna Boon, with judge Claire Webb



Mark White of Mark White Nissan and the Mark White Nissan Equitation Super League Junior Open Victrix Ludorum, Kyla Bruyns

On 20 September 2015, all the Gauteng equitation riders gathered at Marion Clough's Fourways Riding Centre to participate in the Mark White Nissan Equitation Super League Finals and the Gauteng Equitation Provincial Championships. Thanks to the large number of entries, the new Milton International arena and the quality Rose Festival arena were full of exciting competition all day long.

## EXPERIENCED JUDGES

Competitors were privileged to be judged by some of Gauteng's most experienced judges, such as Dominey Alexander, Gregory Goss and Mirja Horsthemke, among others. Also present was the experienced Pat Pohl, who travelled to the show from the Eastern Cape.

All sponsors, judges, riders, instructors and spectators enjoyed a fabulous lunch, which is becoming a tradition at this prestigious event. Guests of honour included Mark White of Mark White Nissan, Mark Slade of South African Showjumping, and David Stubbs, one of the ambassadors of equitation in South Africa.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the day included:

- Zahn Bosman, Junior Open Gauteng Provincial Equitation Champion, instructed by Chad Cunningham.
- Kyla Bruyns, winner of the Mark White Nissan Junior Open Victrix Ludorum and Individual Finals.
- Hanna Boon, winner of the Mark White Nissan Pony Rider Intermediate Victrix Ludorum.

- Lia Wheeler, Pony Rider Intermediate Gauteng Provincial Equitation Champion.
- Chane Blom, winner of the Mark White Nissan Junior Intermediate Victrix Ludorum.
- Victoria Butcher, Junior Intermediate Gauteng Provincial Equitation Champion. 🐾

## THANKS TO SPONSORS

The Gauteng Equitation Committee would like to thank Mark White Nissan for their amazing sponsorship of the Super League 2015, as well as Midfeeds Tack 'n Togs and Equestrian Diva Couture for sponsorship of prizes throughout the year. A huge thank you also goes to Marion Clough and her team at Fourways Riding Centre for the superb running of the show.

## COMPETITION

SA TENT PEGGING TEAM ON FORM

# SA Tent Pegging

## TEAM ON FORM

TEXT: GAIL CANOVI  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MONET SMITH

Protea team wins first World Cup Qualifier

**T**he Mistico Equestrian Centre on the outskirts of picturesque Paarl was host to the Tent Pegging World Cup Qualifier from 7 to 10 August this year – the event was the first of six qualifiers.

The centre is designed to host most equestrian disciplines and the Tent Pegging tracks are of international standard and size – 200m in length and each 50m wide. Mistico also boasts indoor arenas to accommodate showjumping, dressage, showing and equitation, among others, and has several top events scheduled for the show season.

### CLEAR LEAD

From the outset it was evident that the Protea riders had the advantage and the team took the lion share of the medals. Eight gold, three silver and three bronze set them out as the leaders of the qualifier.

In fairness, the visiting countries had several challenges to overcome. Riding in teams with all members mounted on strange horses was no easy feat. The real test of talent lay in the single-rider items. These provided some nail-biting moments, with Iraq and Great Britain nabbing a number of victories – although sadly for their teams no gold.

US rider Ahmed Zubair managed their only medal, a silver in Lemons and Peg for the United States Tent Pegging Association. Best man of the test was Wim du Toit of the Protea team from Goudini Tent Pegging Club.

### THREE-DAY EVENT

With classes spread over three days, the event provided sufficient time for the international

guests to relax and enjoy their visit to the fair Cape. The weather was perfect and provided very good track conditions, which contributed to the great atmosphere among riders and spectators. Although attendance was not huge, the crowds were enthusiastic.

### The event included the following items:

**Day 1:** Single Lance; Rings and Peg; Half Sections (also known as Pairs)

**Day 2:** Individual Sword; Lemons and Peg; Indian File

**Day 3:** Section Lance; Section Sword

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Tent Pegging is an ancient cavalry sport and in broad terms it is a mounted game with edged weapons and ground targets. Look out for an upcoming issue of *HQ* in which we explain the rules and terminology of the discipline!

### GREAT SPORTSMANSHIP

The infectious spirit with which the riders participated, forging new friendships and treating the horses with respect, is precisely what one would expect from world class riders. 🐾

### MEDALS

**South Africa:** 8 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze

**Iraq:** 4 silver, 1 bronze

**Great Britain:** 4 bronze

**USA:** 1 silver



Winners of the Individual Lance

**THE TEAMS:**

**RSA:** JOHANN JORDAAN, WIM DU TOIT, MANIE VAN WYK, BASIE HECKROODT, DANIEL JORDAAN

**IRAQ:** MOHAMMED MAKLEF EHEEMR, OSAMAH LIWAA BAHLLOL, ALI BANOON ABDULKADIM, ABDULALQALEQ AYAD, ABDULHAMEED RASHEED HAMEED

**GREAT BRITAIN:** MICHAEL SMITH, ADRIAN DEANE, JENNA COPLEY, PETER TURLAND, BRADLEY CLIFFORD

**USA:** LINDSAY LAKE, AMMAR NOMANI, AHMED H ZUBAIR, MICHELE SIMONET



Adrenalin rush! South Africa in the Team Lance event



Team rankings: 1st South Africa, 2nd Iraq and 3rd Great Britain at the first World Cup Qualifiers in 2015



The SA team parade

# COMPETITION

POLO FOR A CAUSE

TEXT: SIBUSISIWE NYANDA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: HEATHER MCCANN

# polo

FOR A CAUSE

Cell C Playing for Pink  
Ladies' Invitational Polo



Cell C ladies' team player Katherine James on Thandiwe



Lira and the models perform at the AFI fashion theatre

**T**he first annual Cell C Playing for Pink Ladies' Invitational Polo, in association with Samsung and Edith Unlimited, raised funds in aid of breast cancer in October this year. The proceeds will go to Reach for Recovery, a non-profit organisation that helps women with breast cancer during the healing process and to attain reconstructive surgery.

Six women and two men took to the Inanda green, whacking wooden polo balls with their long-handled mallets at high speed on horseback, in support of this worthy cause.

The Cell C team and opposing players from Zimbabwe battled it out, concluding the friendly match with a 3-2 victory for Cell C.

Young, emerging designers identified by African Fashion International showcased their work on the day as part of a fashion theatre that featured celebrity guests and a performance by award-winning artist, Lira.

The theatre also featured performances by two female contortionists from the Ria Nagel Acrobatic Studio and four ballerinas from Joburg Ballet. Radio DJ and TV presenter, Tumi Voster, as well as musician and designer, Nhlanhla Nciza, and Miss Mamelodi



The Lipizzaners arrived to perform – suitably dressed in pink!

Sundowns, Matlala Mokoko, stunned guests as they walked the ramp.

Rich Mnisi, Khothatso Tsotetsi and Tuelo Nguyuza delighted the audience with exciting and edgy designs, while Lira, who has supported breast cancer campaigns over the years, brought

soul to the show.

Clarins treated guests to neck, back, shoulder and hot stone massages throughout the day, while SOHO offered them express manicures and pedicures. Franco International and GHD gave the ladies quick, fabulous makeovers. 🐾

# COMPETITION

RACING TO JUMP

## RACING TO Jump

Disciplines  
working  
together

TEXT: BRETT WEBBER  
PHOTOGRAPHY: ACTION IN  
MOTION (FRIKKIE STRÖH AND  
LELANIE NAUDE)



The Vaal has a superb grass arena with a natural sand base, and the competitors were extremely happy with the going



Riders got a taste of the racing vibe



Many Thoroughbreds transition to new careers in showjumping after racing



The event drew over 190 entries from the equestrian community

**E**arlier this year a brainstorming session between event organiser and racehorse trainer, Brett Webber, and a Phumelela representative resulted in the staging of the first Racing to Jump event at Turffontein Racecourse on 24 May. The show was well supported with over 100 entries competing in graded classes from 80cm to 1.20m.

## UNIQUE EVENT

What makes this upmarket show unique is the fact that competitors and their families can enjoy a delicious four-course buffet meal on the deck overlooking the racecourse and arena. Over 250 guests joined and got to watch exciting showjumping and top-class horseracing all from the same seat.

The success of the initial event led to a second show held at the Vaal Racecourse on 28 August. The Vaal has a superb grass arena with a natural sand base, and the competitors were extremely happy with the going. There were over 190 entries and about 200 guests filled the Ascot Room for lunch.

## MORE EVENTS

The success of the initiative led to the next Racing to Jump show at Turffontein on 14 November. Thanks to a great sponsorship by World Sports Betting, the prize money soared to a minimum of R2,000 for each class. Guests were also treated to some exciting horseracing, with South Africa's top jockeys taking on some of the best jockeys from around the world in the highly acclaimed Jockeys' International.

A big thank you must go to Clyde Basel from Phumelela Gaming and Leisure for facilitating the running of these events. His vision is to showcase one of the disciplines that offer a future home for retired racehorses. With many Thoroughbreds excelling in the showjumping arena, it is fitting that the racing fraternity has chosen to highlight the symbiosis between the two sports.

Future plans include a major four-day show coinciding with the August Stakes at the Vaal next year. There are also plans to possibly install a fibre arena at Turffontein in the near future.

For more information about this super event, contact Brett on 079 830 0660 or at [brettwebracing@gmail.com](mailto:brettwebracing@gmail.com). Show entries are run via [www.sashowjumping.co.za](http://www.sashowjumping.co.za) and currently only 160 entries will be accepted. 🐾

# RIDER PROFILE

HOOKE, LINE AND SINKER

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF JADE HOOKE

# Hooke,

## LINE AND SINKER

Chatting to Jade Hooke



Jade and A New Era in his prime



Flying high

**J**ade Hooke has been SA's darling since she claimed her first 'surprise' Derby win in 2009 followed by another in 2011. More recently she wowed us by finishing third in the Hickstead Derby and represented the country at the World Equestrian Games in 2014. Now, as she immerses herself in the tough world of international showjumping, Jade speaks to *HQ* about great horses, mucking out stables and planning for the long-term.

### WHEN DID YOU START RIDING?

I started riding at the age of six at a small riding school near Jeffrey's Bay in the Eastern Cape.

### DOES YOUR FAMILY SHARE YOUR LOVE OF HORSES?

Yes. My mom, dad and sister all rode and competed in showjumping, although I'm the only one left in the saddle now.

### HAVE YOU ALWAYS LOVED SHOWJUMPING? WHO WAS YOUR FIRST COMPETITIVE HORSE?

Yes! My first serious competitive horse was a mare called Star of Canada.

### GIVE US A BREAKDOWN OF YOUR PAST FEW YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL SHOWS.

I moved to the UK in 2014 and shortly after that my horse, A New Era, joined me. The last couple of years I have worked extremely hard to achieve my goals. My highlights include jumping in the Hickstead Derby in 2014 as well as competing at the World Equestrian Games in 2014.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST RIDING MOMENT SO FAR?

Winning the Avis Derby in 2009 and in 2011, being placed third in the Hickstead Derby in 2014, and representing South Africa in the World Equestrian Games in 2014, which was an unbelievable experience.



## WHAT IS YOUR NEXT COMPETITIVE GOAL?

I don't have any big competitive goals at the moment as I've decided to train and work for Tim Stockdale, one of the UK's best equestrian athletes. However, if an offer presents itself whereby I am offered a horse to compete on, I will consider it.

## DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL SHOWJUMPER – CONFORMATION AND TEMPERAMENT, FOR EXAMPLE.

My ideal horse is one who is willing to try, who is brave and has heaps of 'blood' and wants to fight for his rider; a horse who wants to do his job is great to work with. Above all a horse who is sound and injury free.

## DO YOU HAVE A HORSE WHO FULFILS ALL THESE CRITERIA?

Unfortunately not at the moment. My golden boy, A New Era, is getting on in age these days and has now moved back to SA.

## HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR COMPETITION?

I have a few ways. I am in the process of setting good structures in place for show preparation. I think the key ingredient would be to arrive at the competition with confidence, knowing all the work has been done at home and you're just adding the cherry on the cake when you go into the arena.

## HOW DO YOU COPE WITH SETBACKS?

This is always tough. The last two years in the UK have had their fair amount of setbacks, and even at the moment I have no horses to compete at top international level, but I'm staying positive and focusing on my short-term goals. In the long run I know this will all pay off.

## WHAT IS YOUR 'DAY JOB' AND HOW DO YOU FIND TIME TO RIDE?

I work full time at a stable yard. My day starts at 7:30am with feeding and mucking out stables. I generally start riding at 9am until 1pm. In the afternoon I do general yard duties such as putting the horses on the walker, cleaning tack and then feeding the horses before I go home at 5:30pm.

## DO YOU HAVE A FITNESS TRAINING SCHEDULE TO STAY IN SHAPE FOR RIDING?

Working in the yard is exercise enough for me. My triathlon has taken a back seat for the moment.

## WHAT DO YOU DO TO KEEP YOUR HORSES IN TOP SHAPE DURING COMPETITION?

During competition I make sure that my horses get out of the stables as much as possible during the day, and are warmed up and cooled down correctly. A strict feeding structure is in place which includes feeding the best possible supplements available. My horses are permanently on GCS-Max joint care and before shows they get Omepracote to prevent ulcers. It works wonders!

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO THE TOP IN THIS SPORT AND DO YOU THINK SA RIDERS HAVE THIS X-FACTOR?

It takes lots of hard work, persistence and determination ... well at least I hope this is what is going to get me to the top of our sport. I believe South African riders definitely have the ability to make it to the top and I will encourage anyone who wishes to follow their dream to achieve this. It is very difficult once overseas as we lack the structure and financial support. 🐾



The international show circuit exposes riders to an electrifying atmosphere

## 20/20 VISION

**What's your nickname?** Jadels, Jadie, Hooker, Hookie

**Early bird or night owl?** Early bird

**Coffee or tea?** Both

**I can't live without my ...** Boyfriend

**Most embarrassing moment in the ring?**

I was at a show and it was raining. I couldn't hold on to the reins as they kept slipping out of my hands no matter what I did. I kept missing the jumps until eventually I was eliminated. The worst of all was someone was watching who was interested in purchasing the horse. Needless to say the horse looked impossible to ride and didn't get sold.

**Favourite movie?** *Southpaw*

**Champagne or beer?** Champagne

**Favourite breed of dog?** German Shepherd

**Hobbies when you're not riding?** Running, cooking. Watching good movies.

**Shoes or bare feet?** Shoes

**The last thing that made you laugh out loud?** Having to pick up sandy wet poles. You probably had to be there to understand.

**I absolutely will not ...** Take drugs

**Favourite horse colour?** Bay

**Bath or shower?** Bath

**Dream holiday?** Sicily, Italy

**Role models?** Scott Brash

**Favourite quote?** "People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily."

**Natural hair colour?** Mousey brown

**Favourite indulgence?** Fudge, pizza, Häagen Dazs ice cream

**I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for ...** David Holden

# VENUE PROFILE

UNDER THE DOME

## UNDER THE dome

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY: CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE

Living the dream

It is good to have a dream, better to chase that dream, but the best to be living the dream.

These are the words that inspired Stan van der Burgh, businessman and equestrian enthusiast, and his wife Leoni, to build the Equidome in South Africa's popular equestrian suburb of Beaulieu in Kyalami.

The facility was built with the international standard in mind. Stan and Leoni wanted to create a world-class show venue – and the Equidome certainly lives up to that expectation!



The entrance to the new Equidome in Beaulieu

## MEET THE TEAM

The Equidome is run by an experienced group of horsemen and women:

- Sharlene Venter – general manager
- Jonathan Harrison – show director
- Roeleen Bloemhoff – operations manager
- Lynnesey van Tonder – finances
- Deon van der Westhuizen – club manager

Of course, Stan and Leoni are involved in all aspects when it comes to the day-to-day running of the Equidome.



The facility was launched at its inaugural show on Heritage Day this year

## DESIGN

Architect Peter Cooke and the Van der Burghs worked closely together to make the vision a reality. The all-inclusive indoor arena has been designed to host the bigger events on South Africa's equestrian calendar, such as FEI World Cups, national and provincial shows, as well as training shows and social events – in all disciplines. The venue also aspires to host seminars, clinics, team buildings and auctions.

## FACILITIES

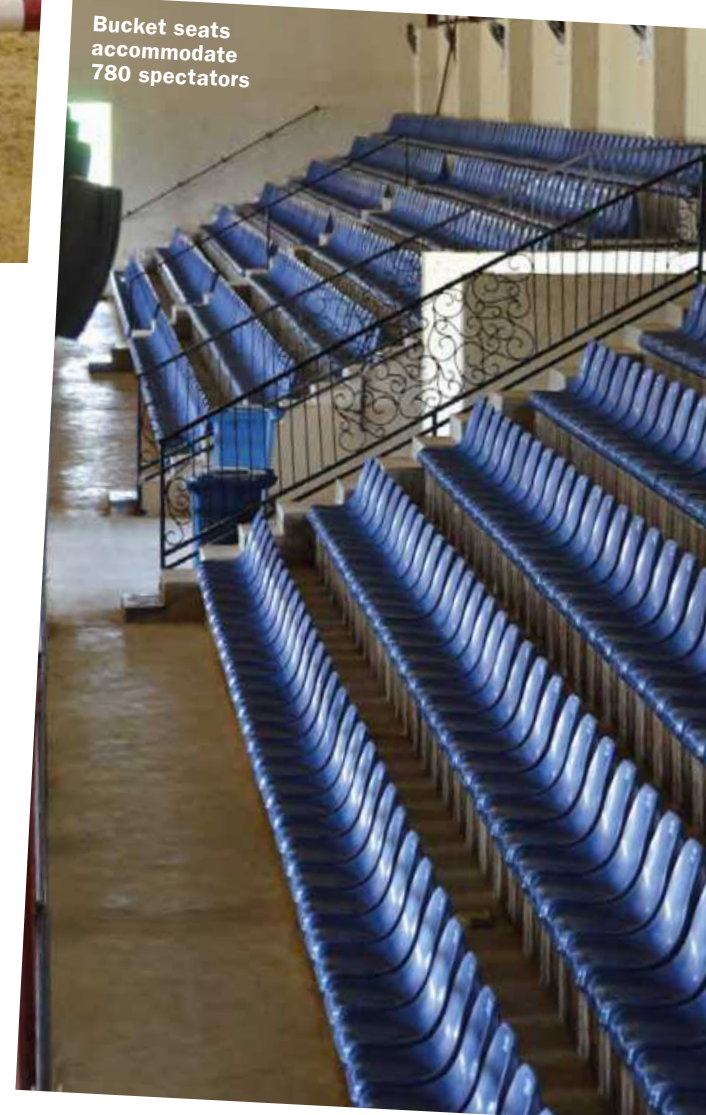
Based in the heart of Kyalami, the Equidome is well equipped with the arena space, seating, catering facilities and parking to accommodate the high volumes of equestrians who will come through for shows. The 65x35m arena, which features a Martin Collins Ecotrack Wax surface, is centrally situated. This competition surface is

the same as those used at the Global Champions tour, London Olympia Horse Trials and the Royal Windsor Horse shows. It is suitable for demanding professional equestrian purposes, and adaptable for a variety of disciplines.

Along the length of the arena is ample seating for spectators – 780 people to be precise. At one end are the catering facilities, a small restaurant (which is open during the week), and offices. On the upstairs level of this side is the gallery, which provides additional seating overlooking the arena, as well as a large room which can accommodate a sit-down dinner or function for 120 people.

On the opposite side are 10 VIP boxes and an elevated judges' box. Above this is the clubhouse, which features luxurious leather couches, a bar and LED TV screens – not to mention an unobstructed view of the arena.

Bucket seats accommodate 780 spectators



# VENUE PROFILE

## UNDER THE DOME



The clubhouse boasts an old world charm

Riders and spectators can stay tuned in to the action all the time as there is a visible screen centred in the middle of the arena, as well as 40 mini-speakers distributed around the venue. An edit facility allows the Equidome to provide riders with footage of their rounds immediately after a show.

Outside, there is enough parking space for 200 vehicles, as well as a separate horsebox parking area. There is a 60x30m Clopf-fibre arena situated outside.



Clear views from the clubhouse, which is open to residents of the surrounding suburb of Beaulieu

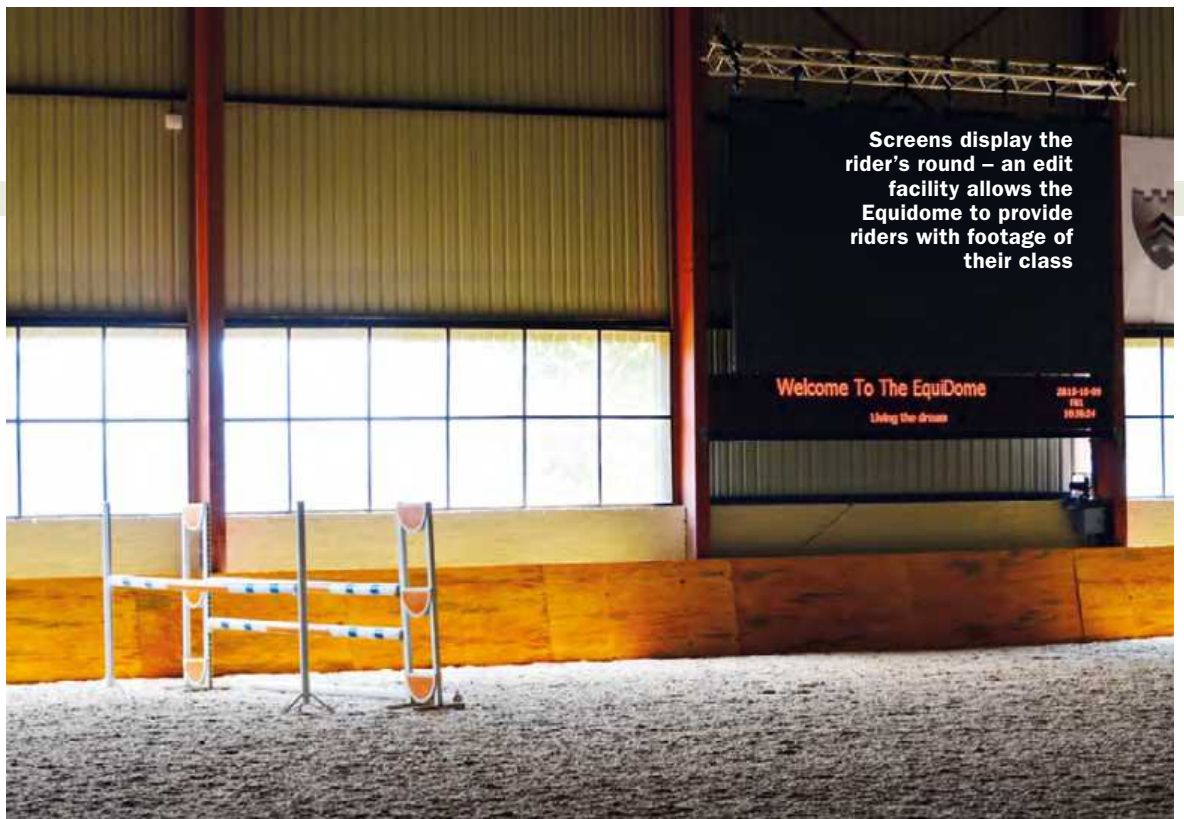


The hall of fame displays charming photos of top riders in action over the years

## BOOST FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The Equidome, being an indoor arena, is perfectly equipped to deal with any type of weather. We all know Gauteng's summers bring an abundance of rain, so having an alternative indoor option guarantees that your ride doesn't have to be compromised by bad weather.

The Equidome also offers equestrians the opportunity to book the arena for riding sessions. This allows horses and riders to get used to international standard indoor arenas. Indoor arenas provide a very different riding experience to outdoor venues – some horses take time to grow accustomed to the sense of enclosure, as well as the surrounding noise and artificial



Screens display the rider's round – an edit facility allows the Equidome to provide riders with footage of their class



Catering for the discerning in the VIP area



The catering area overlooks the arena

lighting. A few sessions at the venue allows riders to expose their horses to the indoor environment comfortably at their own pace.

## POSITIVE RESPONSE

The Equidome was inaugurated on 24 September when it hosted its Heritage Day Extravaganza Show. Riders and equestrian enthusiasts flocked from all over Gauteng to experience the Equidome firsthand.

“What a privilege to have an equestrian establishment like the Equidome in the heart of the Gauteng equestrian sport! I salute your leadership in the way forward for our sport,” said Chad Cunningham, top South African showjumper and SASJ EXCO member. 🐾

## THE EQUIDOME'S MISSION

- To provide an international standard equestrian venue and host events of exceptional standard.
- To promote the interest in equestrian sports and the art of horsemanship by providing a sound environment that supports good fellowship.
- To offer a venue where like-minded equestrian individuals can experience their interest in equestrian activities with family and friends.
- To provide a facility where riders can learn, train and compete together where sportsmanship and safety are paramount.
- To offer other social activities or events that will be beneficial to the community and create a culture of unity.

# BREED PROFILE

THE CONNEMARA IN SOUTH AFRICA

## THE Connemara IN SOUTH AFRICA

TEXT: ZENA PENFOLD  
PHOTOGRAPHY: TB IMAGES

An ancient breed on the modern circuit

Professional rider, Georgina Roberts, and Mighty Man at the 2015 Horse of the Year



**T**he ancient Connemara was hanging about Galway Bay (Ireland) long before the songwriters got there.”  
(Thelwell’s *A Leg at Each Corner*)

This ancient Irish breed of mountain and moorland pony has been resident in South Africa since the first imports arrived directly from Ireland in 1965. These were Clonkeehan Barna Boy (CPS 182) and Bright Lass (CPS 2865). Both were imported by Sydney Press of the Bluehills Riding School near Johannesburg. Christine Walwyn of the nationally known Ashgar Connemara Stud in Clarens, Eastern Free State, acquired the stallion Dundrum and his dam Coromandel Abbeyline in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s. Evidence of their lineage can be found in the current Ashgar performance ponies competing in provincial English riding disciplines throughout South Africa.

### GENETIC EROSION

Due to demands for cross-bred sport horses and ponies for performance and recreational horse riding (a worldwide trend known as ‘out-crossing’ with other breeds such as Arabians, Thoroughbreds and mix-breeds such as Warmbloods), the pure-bred Connemara Pony in South Africa now suffers from chronic genetic erosion. The ‘factory’, in other words the pure-bred animals’ genetic pool, has been eroded to such an extent that Connemara Pony numbers in South Africa are currently placed in the ‘Critical’ category – there are under 20 pure-bred breeding mares and only four (two of them imported) breeding stallions.



◀ **New life! Keana is by Mighty Man out of pure-bred Ashgar Connemara mare, Kaylee. She is the first of Mighty Man's progeny in the programme**

**Wanted:** Foundation stallion for South Africa Connemara Pony Breed Conservation Programme.

**Personal attributes:** Must meet the globally recognised top-class Connemara breed stallion in type and performance. A pony with charisma, fabulous sport pony paces, excellent conformation, a kind eye in a gentle face, with impeccable manners. He must be in the best of health according to SA and international quarantine laws and regulations as well as being able to withstand the rigours of a north-to-south change of hemisphere and change of environment, plus the potential exposure to African risks in terms of disease and viruses. Also proven as extremely fertile, preferably with award-winning progeny on the ground!

**Education:** Must have formal education in specific disciplines such as showing, dressage and showjumping and be comfortable in a show environment. The stallion should be an 'old hand' at live and AI breeding techniques.

**Experience:** Adaptable in a range of environments and comfortable with all the razzmatazz that comes with the big show environment. Able to cope with the change in environment from training yards in Gauteng to the stud in the Eastern Free State.

**Personality:** Even-tempered, tolerant and forgiving, easy-going, intelligent and quick to learn but quirky and fun without being boring. It is necessary to bear in mind that his potential progeny will most likely be owned and ridden by children and adults from novice to advanced standard in a multi-discipline environment.

**Skills:** English-speaking! This sounds strange but it is quite challenging when the horse has been trained in a different language such as German or French and you take him out to work. As a foundation stallion, he must have fabulous, smooth paces in rhythm, suppleness, not an excess of elevation being a sport pony but sufficient to be attractive.

Those acquainted with basic animal husbandry principles know that breeding closely related animals is very risky, with more likelihood of the worst traits and temperaments of the parents moving to the next generation rather than the best.

## LOCAL DILEMMA

In South Africa, locally bred Connemara Pony breed stallions, although in a similar class to the worldwide breed standards, were just one generation away from this situation. The only imported stallion available up to mid-year 2013 was still privately owned by one nationally known breeder.

**So, what to do? Well, there were several suggestions put forward:**

- Let the breed die out completely in South Africa.
- Find a stakeholder group of people resident in South Africa willing to collaborate and work towards the 22nd century future of the Connemara Pony in South Africa.
- Form a Connemara Conservation Programme to protect the remaining pure-bred stock and to consolidate relationships with the owners of privately owned pure-bred Connemaras via broodmare lease and donation agreements.
- Extend and re-establish the existing Pony gene pool to the best possible international breed standards, bearing in mind the existing and future SA rider market demands.

- Consolidate the existing SA Connemara Pony Registry into one entity currently maintained with SA Stud Book.
- Find a market niche for the breed in South Africa (bearing in mind that the Connemara Pony has limited exposure here in the international/global disciplines in which he excels: driving, hunting, junior eventing and Pony Club).
- Raise awareness of the Pony through print media and the internet to educate the general public on this ancient, versatile and beautiful Pony.

## TIME-SENSITIVE

To implement a successful programme, I knew time was of the essence. Breeding horses is a long-term commitment – 11 months of gestation for each foal without the pre-conception preparation and planning, or factoring in the 70% or less success rate (the majority of SA-bred Connemara mares are in their teens). Not only is artificial insemination costly, but bringing in straws from overseas is time-consuming due to SA's disease restrictions and controls necessitating a formidable testing procedure. So the answer was to import a stallion!

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Having come to this conclusion I placed an ad in my mind of what kind of a foundation stallion we would be looking for – almost along the lines of a job description – to help me with my selection process.

# BREED PROFILE

THE CONNEMARA IN SOUTH AFRICA



Mighty in his home town before the trip to South Africa

**Attributes:** 'Cheap to keep!' In today's world the cost of keeping horses tends to be on the top-end of any person's budget. It is therefore beholden to the breeder to promote a breed that if possible fits into the 'good doer' category. He should also be adaptable to different environmental conditions and terrains (particularly if put into training for endurance in which he excels overseas). The breed is primarily targeted to children and juniors and so a sensitive category breed is not really appropriate.

**Budget:** Zero! Well, this isn't entirely true. My husband is a businessman and entrepreneur and thankfully has a very soft spot for both me and the horses, being a life-long horseman himself. I put the sales pitch and job description above to him and was astounded when he said: "Okay, go for it." Flushed with success I knew then the journey to find Mighty had begun.

## GETTING STARTED

**My mission:** To find an internationally recognised Class 1 best of breed foundation stallion for a national breeding conservation

programme, to breed, in the shortest possible time, globally recognised progeny as near as possible to modern breed standards while protecting the legacy and breeding tradition (including preserving some of the 'lost' characteristics of the pony, for example colours and dorsal stripes) of Ashgar Connemara Stud.

**My authority:** Signed donation of mares and broodmares lease agreement with Mrs Christine Walwyn, owner of Ashgar Connemara Stud.

**My accountability:** As a certified project management professional I felt I had the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out the programme successfully. With this initiative, we as an interested group of owners and breeders are responsible for the future of a national pony breed in terms of its success or failure. Such a responsibility is something which took some thinking about in terms of viability and cost. However, the pleasure of the journey on this mission has been enormous and the benefits may well end up being more qualitative rather than quantitative!

## SO TO MIGHTY ...

**Step 1:** How to find and select the stallion (early 2013). The most obvious place to start – the internet! By searching 'Connemara stallions for sale' a long, long list of stallions emerged but only one with a supporting YouTube video in the search engine: Rhinestrom's Mighty Man.

I was interested in the fact that Mighty had been leased to the Irish National Connemara Breed Programme and had returned to Germany to Patty's Connemaras, owned by Patty Schmidt, a respected breeder near Hanover. He was originally bred by Vivi Rhinestrom-Schmidt in Denmark and is registered under the Pony Society of Denmark.

**Step 2:** I wrote a tentative enquiry to Patty explaining that I was looking for a national foundation breed stallion, and so our correspondence began. Thanks to the professional advice and tolerance of Hobday

“

CONNEMARA PONY  
NUMBERS IN SOUTH  
AFRICA ARE CURRENTLY  
PLACED IN THE 'CRITICAL'  
CATEGORY

”

Equestrian Enterprises' Kerry Prodehl in Cape Town and their clear, concisely written quotation, I was able to understand the import process quite quickly.

Patty sent me beautiful pictures of Mighty, his accolades, his relations and his award-winning progeny. He was well used to quarantine conditions due to his regular visits to nearby Celle Stud for the storage and international exportation of his semen to America, Europe and particularly Australia and New Zealand. As a professional breeder all Patty's paperwork was in order: DNA certificate, pre-sale vet checks, purchase agreement, and so forth. At our end we had to make sure that he was cleared through Animal Improvement and Health as well as get a letter of 'permission' from the Connemara Pony Society of Southern Africa.

**Step 3:** Signing the purchase order. There was one last factor to consider: could I sign a purchase agreement for a very expensive pony I had never seen, with someone I had never met? The answer

The job called for an applicant with a kind eye in a gentle face ... Mighty exceeded expectations

was 'no' and so a short visit was arranged to meet Patty and Mighty 'in person'. Being someone who believes in a higher 'cosmic plan', meeting Mighty Man was just such an experience – we were destined to meet and he seemed to know it. Four days later Mighty was on the carrier to Amsterdam, the beginning of his long journey and new career in South Africa.

### EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

As a globally recognised Class 1 Connemara Pony stallion (according to the ICCPS stud book definition), Mighty has met and exceeded every aspect of the original job description. He is extremely versatile, having been trained in dressage and showjumping up to 1.30m.

He had a rocky start in South Africa including a delay of a month in quarantine, having a strong reaction fever to the new vaccines put into his system, in particular for African Horse Sickness, contracting a near fatal case of biliary and taking over a year to acclimatise to the African environment. Thanks to much love and nursing from friend Renae Erasmus, and his young fan club at Shumbashaba Horse Therapy Centre near Fourways, Mighty pulled through and has since



Mighty Man displays the conformation, quality gaits and temperament required of a foundation stallion



contributed his breeding services to three purebred Connemara mares (as part of the programme) and two privately owned mares. A substantial amount of frozen semen has also been collected and is now available for purchase via Millsleigh Irish Sport Horse and Pony Stud and Vriesit in Pretoria.

With his professional rider Georgina Roberts and coach Simone Howarth (of Howarth and Roberts Dressage in Gauteng), Mighty has won accolades in showing at both the Horse of the Year 2015 in the General Breeds section and the WPCS Autumn Gold Show as Reserve Inter-breed Supreme Champion. He has very much enjoyed his winter holiday rusticated at the stud in the Eastern Free State, but Rhinestrom's Mighty Man will be back on the competitive scene from December 2015. 🐾

#### Additional contacts

Patty Schmidt, Patty's Connemaras:  
[info@connemara.de](mailto:info@connemara.de)

International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies: [www.connemarapony.org](http://www.connemarapony.org)

# TRAINING

BITTING

# Bitting

TEXT: CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

Is your horse happy or hurting?



## EXPERT

DAWN MANSFIELD

Dawn is a lecturer for the National Diploma in Equine Science at the Tshwane University of Technology. She has studied biting and has in-depth knowledge and understanding of bits.



There are dozens of different bits available – do you understand how they work?



Resistance to the bit when tacking up is another sign of bit discomfort

Discomfort is evident when the horse opens his mouth or tries to get his tongue over the bit – masking this symptom with a tighter noseband is not an effective solution

the roof of the horse's mouth when the rider pulls on the reins. Dawn explains that these bits have improved over time as bit makers have started curving the mouthpieces to reduce this problem. "It also depends on the shape of the palate as well as the cheekpiece attached to the single-jointed mouthpiece," says Dawn. Undue pressure on the palate is evident when the horse tries to open his mouth or put his tongue over the bit. Single-jointed bits are regarded to put more pressure on the bars, especially when the horse is working in a frame.

A horse's lower jaw is in fact quite sharp. The bone itself is very sharp, with only a thin layer of gum between the bit and the jawbone. Dawn explains that the sharpness of the jaw can vary from breed to breed, so it's best to consult someone knowledgeable about the specific anatomy of your horse's breed when selecting a bit. You may find that although double-jointed and straight-bar bits don't affect your horse's palate, they can still put excessive pressure on the lower jaw. Again, the horse will try to open his mouth to relieve this pressure.

Non-metal bits have become popular because they are not as hard on the mouth as metal bits. However, it is important to bear the horse's mouth size in mind. Rubber and plastic-coated bits can be very thick and are therefore not suitable for horses with smaller mouths, such as Arabians, Thoroughbreds and other finely built breeds, because they put pressure on the bars of the horse's mouth, and even more additional pressure on the tongue.

Any bit with shanks uses leverage to create additional pressure on the poll, as well as on the mouth; they are mostly used on hot or strong horses with sensitive mouths. Gags need to be used with care, particularly in unskilled hands. However, Dawn says, "two-and-a-half or three-ring gags and Tom Thumb gags are not as strong." These bits are safer options for horses and riders trying a gag for the first time. 🐾

## MORE DETAIL

In an upcoming issue, *HQ* will provide more information on the various types of bits, how they affect the anatomy of the mouth and how to choose one to suit your horse.

**T**he truth is that bit and bridle combinations can cause a horse discomfort – particularly when they're misused or not fitted properly. Bits and bridles exert pressure on the horse's bars, lips, tongue, palate, chin, nose and poll, which means there are multiple points that must be considered when fitting.

It is critical that riders understand that bits are not there to punish the horse or to stabilise an unbalanced rider. Bits and bridles are intended for communication, and the key to clear communication is through the principle of slight pressure and release.

The horse will learn to seek the position of comfort when the rider rewards him with release, in the exact moment that the horse complies with what the rider is asking. This is a complicated concept because it involves a combination of knowledge, timing and 'feel' that may not yet be established in a rider's skill set. As a result, the rider may carry on exerting pressure on the horse's mouth without any release, and the horse suffers further discomfort even after complying with the instruction. For obvious reasons, an ill-fitting bit will add to the equation since it may be causing discomfort even when the rider has mastered the art of good contact. *HQ* chatted to expert bit fitter, Dawn Mansfield, about biting issues.

## WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH MY BIT?

Many horse owners and riders are not aware of the different bit options available, and in some instances may also not understand the action that each bit has

on the horse's mouth. In some instances, bits are not designed for the anatomy of a particular horse's mouth, which can result in pressure on sensitive areas. A qualified bit fitter can assess the horse's mouth and advise the owner on which bits can and can't be used for the individual horse.

## ANATOMY OF THE MOUTH

The mouth of the horse has multiple areas that are affected by the action of the bit. For example, single-jointed snaffles typically put pressure on

## HOW CAN I TELL IF MY HORSE IS UNCOMFORTABLE?

Your horse will show you. A horse who is experiencing pain or discomfort in his mouth will try to open his mouth or shield sensitive areas with his tongue – which can lead to lacerations. Other signs of discomfort include head shaking, grinding on the bit, pinning his ears back and working behind the bit. Horses may refuse to be bridled by throwing their heads up or refusing to open their mouths.

It is wiser to address the problem than to attempt to mask it, for example by tightening the noseband. Tightening the noseband will only obstruct the airway, making it difficult for the horse to breathe, and damaging his facial nerves, which is evident when a horse rubs his head on his legs or on a stable door. More severe signs of biting problems are evident through lacerations of the tongue, the bars, and the sides of the horse's mouth.

# TRAINING

STRAIGHTNESS TRAINING

# Straightness Training

TEXT: ZANETA GEORGIADES  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SARAH DAY, ZANETA GEORGIADES

Let's get things straight

**S**traightness Training is a programme based on the wisdom and techniques of the old dressage masters: Francois Robichon de la Gueriniere, Antoine de Pluvinel, Francois Baucher and Gustav Steinbrecht to name a few. It takes this knowledge a step further by incorporating more modern concepts like learning theory, behavioural science and biomechanics.

It is a method onto which can be added any form of training to improve a horse's natural asymmetry or it can be explored in depth as an art on its own. Some call Straightness Training 'yoga for horses' because yoga is also used to improve

health for other sports or it can be practised and mastered for its own sake.

## THE FOUNDATION OF STRAIGHTNESS TRAINING

Marijke de Jong, founder of the programme, has an amazing gift for simplifying and presenting complex topics in a way that is easy to understand and practise. She has created a group of what she calls 'frameworks', which provide a 'map' of Straightness Training.

Her first two frameworks, which she explains at length in her free videos on her website, are called 'Eight dimensions of natural asymmetry'

and 'Six keys of Straightness Training'. These lay the foundation for understanding the purpose of Straightness Training.

## DIMENSIONS AND KEYS

The eight dimensions of natural asymmetry address the areas of the horse that are naturally out of balance and, if not addressed correctly early on, can cause problems in the training process.

The six keys of Straightness Training explain the logical progression of exercises which lead to the horse being able to carry his own weight on powerful and bendable hind legs, which is the essential ingredient to finding true self-carriage.



Zaneta riding a half-pass in trot



Zaneta and Topaz doing a walk pirouette

## MORE TO COME

Look out for more Straightness Training tips in upcoming issues of *HQ*.

## EXPERT

ZANETA GEORGIADIS

Zaneta is a Straightness Training Trainee Instructor participating in the 2015 Instructor program and she will be licensed as a Level 3 Straightness Training instructor in 2016.



Delightful Flight, showing LFS (lateral bend, forward tendency, stepping under) in trot at liberty

### The keys are explained in detail in her free e-book. They are listed as:

- 1 Lateral bend (creating a correct bend through the spine and poll)
- 2 Forward tendency (having the horse seeking and creating the contact)
- 3 Stepping under (preserving the forward swing of both hind legs)
- 4 Bending the inside hind leg (putting weight on the inside hind leg in shoulder-fore and shoulder-in)
- 5 Bending the outside hind leg (putting weight on the outside hind leg through travers and renvers)
- 6 Bending both hind legs (putting weight on both hind legs through pirouette and piaffe)

## THE FIVE PILLARS

The next framework falls under the title of 'Five pillars of Straightness Training'. The five pillars include: groundwork, lunging, work in-hand, riding, and liberty. All five pillars are started in a simple cavesson. At a more advanced level, when both horse and rider are more balanced, a bit may be added but it is not required.

- 1 In groundwork, a single lunge line is attached to the middle ring of the cavesson and the handler works in close proximity to the horse standing anywhere between the head and shoulder.
- 2 In lunging, the handler also uses a single line attached to the middle ring of the cavesson but will work on increasing the space between them and their horses.
- 3 In work in-hand, the handler uses a pair of

reins attached to the side rings of the cavesson and stands close to the horse but further back than in groundwork, between the shoulder and mid-back.

- 4 In riding, the handler uses the reins attached to the side rings of the cavesson. Marijke encourages riders to ride often in a bareback pad to learn how to develop an independent and observing seat.
- 5 In liberty, the handler only has a stick which is used as a conductor's baton – to direct and shape the horse's body and movement.

## PROGRESSIVE EXERCISES

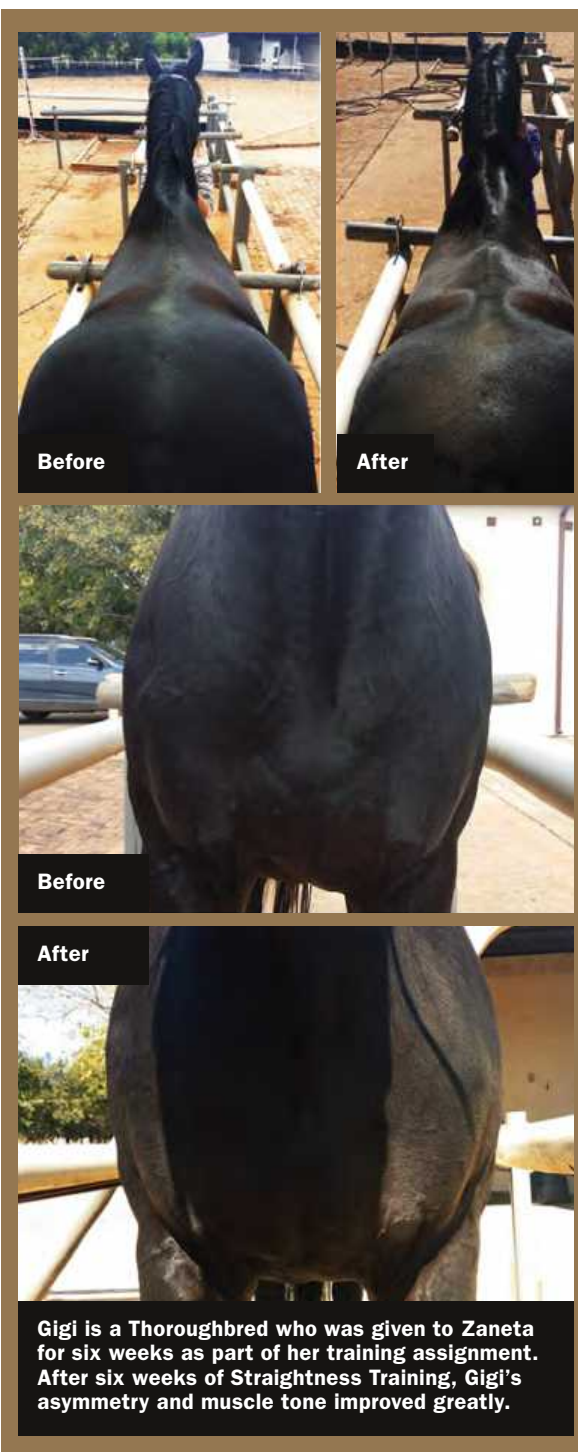
The Straightness Training sequence starts with exercises in halt and progresses to teaching LFS (lateral bend, forward tendency, stepping under) in walk on a circle and on a straight line with transitions to halt and rein-back in groundwork, work in-hand and lunging.

Next the horse is taught shoulder-in, travers, renvers, half-pass and pirouette in walk in groundwork and work in-hand. Once established, these exercises are taught in trot in groundwork, work in-hand and lunging, and exploring the walk exercises in riding and liberty. The same follows when introducing the canter work.

As we teach, advance and master the exercises on the ground we can add them to our ridden and liberty training. In this way the horse is given a comprehensive foundation in groundwork, work in-hand and lunging, which offers him the best chance of understanding and executing the exercises successfully in riding and liberty.

## JUST A TASTE

These are just a taste of four of the various frameworks which Marijke has included in the Straightness Training programme. The Straightness Training Mastery programme coaches you from the fundamental concepts through to the advanced techniques and is a source of information which every equestrian should have. Straightness Training was created for the horse and is a recipe of exercises that set both you and your horse up for success in your training goals. It has been the most valuable tool I have ever come across in my own search for knowledge and the training with my own horses has been transformed. 🐾



Gigi is a Thoroughbred who was given to Zaneta for six weeks as part of her training assignment. After six weeks of Straightness Training, Gigi's asymmetry and muscle tone improved greatly.

# ALL I WANT FOR Christmas

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SUPPLIED

Gifts, events and vacations for the horse lover

## FEELING HANDY?

Browbands, flysprays, recycled rosettes and repurposed bits or spurs – when it comes to DIY, the internet is rich with ideas. We scoured the web and found so much inspiration on Pinterest and similar sites that we've decided to run regular features on ways to flex your creative muscles horsey-style! Catch the next issue of *HQ* for the first instalment!

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – HORSE STYLE!

When it comes to gifts, these days the sky is pretty much the limit, particularly in terms of personalisation. Companies like Horse Stuff ([horsestuff.co.za](http://horsestuff.co.za)) make it easy to create horsey prints and personalised name plates. You can also 'horsify' ordinary items like diaries, calendars, cellphone covers and anything else that you can imagine – we found some fun ideas in the Macaroon idea gallery – [macaroon.co/macaroon/content/en/macaroon/ideas-gallery](http://macaroon.co/macaroon/content/en/macaroon/ideas-gallery).

Other creative ideas include designing jewellery using your horse's mane or tail hair – the team at Heart Strings ([heartstringsSA.com](http://heartstringsSA.com)) create beautiful pieces by combining braided horse hair with silver fittings and charms. For a practical touch, monogrammed numnahs, daysheets, blankets and earmuffs are a hit – Red Dapple ([reddapple.co.za](http://reddapple.co.za)) does a great job.

If ready-to-go is your style, you'll find a wealth of choices at your favourite tackshops – and they certainly deserve our support over the holiday season. We found a lovely range of Breyer ponies and accessories at Midfeeds ([tackntogs.co.za](http://tackntogs.co.za)), gorgeous crystal encrusted stocks, hairbuns and hairpins at Equestrian Diva ([equestriandivacouture.co.za](http://equestriandivacouture.co.za)), horseshoe bracelets at [tackshop.co.za](http://tackshop.co.za), and funky tog bags at [tackshack.co.za](http://tackshack.co.za). In addition to gifts and other equestrian must-haves, Western Shoppe has a range of Christmas bunting, bags and gift tags so you can make sure your presents are suitably wrapped ([westernshoppe.com](http://westernshoppe.com)).

For the industrious, there's so much you can do with old tack that you might find yourself loath to part with it. Having said this, consider donating your old gear to equine charities who use it for outreach work – the Highveld Horse Care Unit ([horsecare.org.za](http://horsecare.org.za)), Eastern Cape Horse Care Unit ([echcu.co.za](http://echcu.co.za)), Coastal Horse Care Unit ([coastalhorsecareunit.org.za](http://coastalhorsecareunit.org.za)) and Society for Animals in Distress ([animalsindistress.org.za](http://animalsindistress.org.za)) would be delighted to hear from you.

## 1 SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS

Art lasts a lifetime (equine sculpture by Vincent da Silva)



**Arend Eloff (sculptor):** [powerstar.co.za](http://powerstar.co.za)

**Ashleigh Kabe (photographer):** [ashleighkphotography.com](http://ashleighkphotography.com)

**Graham Kearney (artist):** [grahamkearney.com](http://grahamkearney.com)

**Heinrich Filter (sculptor):** [heinrichfilterart.co.za](http://heinrichfilterart.co.za)

**Jaco Wiid (photographer):** [meilleurphotography.co.za](http://meilleurphotography.co.za)

**Krizelda Carelse Photography (photographer):** [krizeldacarelse.co.za](http://krizeldacarelse.co.za)

**Manie Ward (photographer):** [photopixelart.co.za](http://photopixelart.co.za)

**Michelle Symington (artist):** search 'Michelle Symington Equine Artist' on Facebook

**Tracy Robertson Photography (photographer):** [tracyrobertson.co.za](http://tracyrobertson.co.za)

**TB Images (photographers):** [tbimages.co.za](http://tbimages.co.za)

**Vincent da Silva (artist/sculptor):** [vincentdasilva.co.za](http://vincentdasilva.co.za)

(PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRIZELDA CARELSE)



A photo shoot to capture memories forever

As we head into the silly season, many of us are thinking of ways to spoil our loved ones, or how to spend our free time over the holidays. As horse lovers, of course we'd like to add a touch of equine interest to the event, so the *HQ* team decided to draw up a wish list of things we'd like to see in our 'stocking' this Christmas.

## GIFTS

There's something special about giving art as a gift, particularly if it's personalised. Several South African artists specialise in equestrian work and can be commissioned to paint a much-loved horse. Photoshoots have also become popular, with many photographers offering increasingly creative themes to capture the special bond between horse and rider. A sculpture is equally desirable – particularly when it's big enough to set a scene in your home.

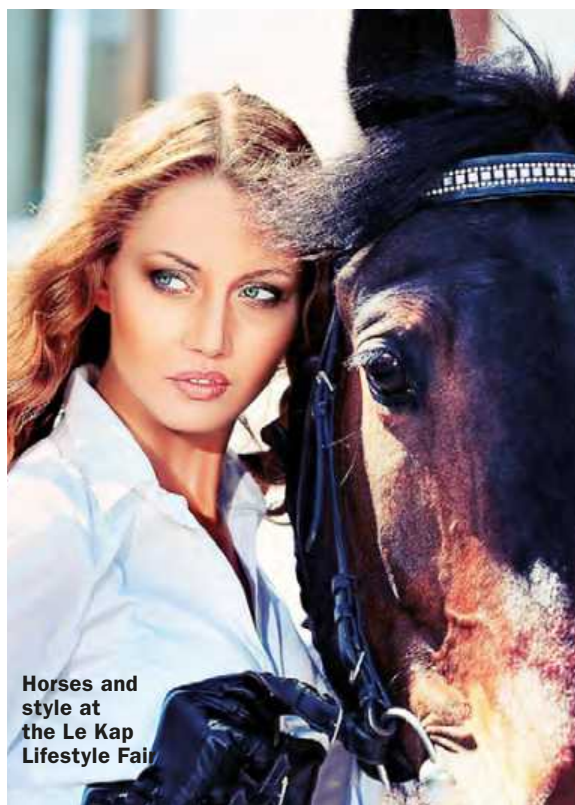




Festive fun  
with the  
Lippies  
Gauteng

## EVENTS

Few of us who live in Gauteng can imagine a festive season without a visit to the South African Lipizzaners in Kyalami. Every year the team puts on a series of shows designed to captivate the whole family – whether they're riders or not. This season the team has 12 events planned from 5 to 23 December, riding to the accompaniment of the Welsh Male Choir, with activities for kids to join. You'll love it – we do! Tickets are available at R160 per person (kids under three are free if they sit on your lap). Visit [lipizzaners.co.za](http://lipizzaners.co.za) for more info or book at Computicket.



Horses and  
style at  
the Le Kap  
Lifestyle Fair



Aerial view of horses  
trotting on Noordhoek  
Beach in early morning.

## Cape

The birth of the Le Kap Lifestyle Fair three years ago added a new December fixture to the equestrian calendar. Hosted on 5 December at Webersburg Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, the event teams with Lamborghini to feature a full range of luxury lifestyle elements from vehicles to fashion, food and wine. Equestrians will love the horse activity, including six-bar jumping and dressage freestyles. This year the fair will include live entertainment with an all-women instrumental pop group, Sterling EQ. Fashionistas will have a chance to strut their stuff for a best-dressed prize.

Tickets range from R300 for normal entrance (kids are R50) to R2,000 per person for those who want a full VIP experience (complete with fine dining and Veuve Clicquot Champagne). For further information, visit [www.lekaplifestylefair.com](http://www.lekaplifestylefair.com), or go to the Facebook page, Le Kap Lifestyle Fair. To book tickets go to [www.lekaplifestylefair.com](http://www.lekaplifestylefair.com).

## TRAVEL

A lot of equestrians might be interested to know that southern Africa is considered to have some of the best riding vacations in Africa – pretty impressive when you consider that thousands of tourists flock to the continent every year for the privilege of viewing our country first-hand – while many of us locals are too busy riding our own horses to explore this option! Now might be the perfect opportunity to get in touch with nature on the back of a horse, and we have the additional option of planning out-of-season trips to enjoy the ride more affordably.

### Safari riding at Pakamisa

For close encounters with game, riding safaris are one of the best options as they seem more comfortable with the presence of horses than vehicles. Featured in *HQ91*, Pakamisa Lodge ([pakamisa.co.za](http://pakamisa.co.za)) offers game viewing on well-schooled, well-cared-for horses in your choice



Safari riding at Pakamisa

of English or endurance tack. Accommodation is luxurious and dining is sumptuous, while a multitude of activities – from birding and game drives to archery and target shooting – will keep non-equestrians busy too.

### FOR MORE RIDING SAFARIS

Cruise over to [ridesonthewildside.com](http://ridesonthewildside.com). Specialising in adventure rides, this tour operator will be sending *HQ* regular features in 2016 to keep us up to date on amazing equestrian holidays.

If you prefer not to walk on the wild side, you may love a ride through the vineyards of Cape Town. For years the team at Cape Winelands have been offering rides through award-winning wine estates with stops en route to taste the wine and cuisine of the area. On-site farm accommodation is available, or you can opt for a boutique experience. The organisers can also arrange additional activities such as shopping or even shark cage diving for those who don't want to ride – because sharks are less intimidating, it might seem! You'll learn more at [capewinelandsriding.co.za](http://capewinelandsriding.co.za).

Another venue featured in *HQ* (issue 98), Dunkeld Equestrian Centre, situated in the town of Dullstroom, has drawn a growing number of fans from the horsey community thanks to their showjumping events and fun days. Boasting top-notch facilities, including a Clopf fibre arena, the



Outrides for novice to advanced at Dunkeld Equestrian Centre

centre provides access to hours of uninterrupted outrides. Timeshare and hotel accommodation are available, allowing you to take a decent break, and there are plenty of activities in the area for non-riding family members, including trout dams on the estate for anglers. Visit [dunkeldequestrian.co.za](http://dunkeldequestrian.co.za) for more information.

[dunkeld] Outrides for novice to advanced at Dunkeld Equestrian Centre

### NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

If there's one thing we've learned from the research for our Christmas wish list, it's that we are spoiled for choice! There is so much to do and so many fantastic things to add to our tack trunks that we've been inspired to bring you more ideas every issue. Whether it's news of lifestyle events, trends in tack and gifts, or things to do and see around the country, we'll find them for you. 🐾



### A YEAR OF HORSES

Looking for a gift that will last the whole year? Subscribe to *HQ* and your loved ones will receive a gift every month! Visit [bitly.com/hqmag](http://bitly.com/hqmag) for a whole range of options.



The AHS vaccination is your horse's primary protection against African Horse Sickness

TEXT: DR ADRIENNE VILJOEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

# African Horse Sickness

## VACCINE UPDATES What's up with the new protocols?

**A**frican Horse Sickness, an infectious but non-contagious viral disease transmitted by *Culicoides spp* midges, is a very real and sometimes frustrating challenge for all of us and our horses.

As horse owners, it is our responsibility to ensure that horses are vaccinated every year and that any movement of horses into the Western

Cape African Horse Sickness (AHS) controlled area complies with policy requirements. Apart from mitigating the risks of horses getting the virus and retaining the free zone, the vaccination protocol requires some pre-planning to accommodate any competition, breeding and movement schedules.

To clarify some of the queries we often get, this

article offers some background on the vaccination process and movement protocols.

### VACCINATION

The current available Horse Sickness vaccine is a polyvalent vaccine containing attenuated strains in two components: one trivalent (containing serotypes 1, 3 and 4), and one quadrivalent

# HEALTH

## AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINE UPDATES



## EXPERT

DR ADRIENNE VILJOEN

Dr Adrienne Viljoen is the internal medicine specialist at Fourways Equine Clinic in Blue Hills, Kyalami. [www.fourwaysequine.co.za](http://www.fourwaysequine.co.za) or contact 011 468 3393.



How do the new AHS vaccination protocols affect you and your horse?

(containing serotypes 2, 6, 7 and 8). Serotypes 5 and 9 are not included in the vaccine because serotypes 6 and 8 are reportedly providing adequate cross-protection. The two vaccines should be administered at least three weeks apart but the period in between can be extended.

The vaccine is a modified live vaccine consisting of attenuated microorganisms which, after administration, replicate, resulting in an immune response similar to that induced by natural infection. The effectiveness of the African Horse Sickness vaccine is largely dependent on humoral immunity (otherwise known as antibody-mediated immunity). Therefore, the administration of several serotypes included in the vaccine results in the production of antibodies against each serotype. The response, however, of individual horses to vaccine administration may vary and in some individuals, antibodies against one or more of the serotypes might not even be detectable. Despite these limitations,

“... CURRENTLY ONLY PERTAIN TO HORSES RESIDING WITHIN THE CONTROLLED AHS AREA AND THE THOROUGHBREDS REGISTERED UNDER THE NHRA”

the Onderstepoort Biological Products' (OBP) AHS vaccine is the only vaccine registered for use in South Africa in terms of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947) and remains the only currently approved AHS vaccine in South Africa. Inactivated or recombinant vaccines may prove to be viable alternatives to the current available vaccine, but are not commercially available at the time.

While the success of the AHS vaccine as the primary control measure has been evident, secondary control measures to reduce the *Culicoides* biting rate during high risk periods are important. Proven *Culicoides* repellents such as

DEET (N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) should be applied to horses and their environment. This along with stabling and meshing of stables is of primary importance.

## NEW VACCINE REGULATIONS

New regulations regarding the period during which horses should be vaccinated have come into place but currently only pertain to horses residing within the controlled AHS area and the Thoroughbreds registered under the NHRA. New regulations stipulate that horses should be vaccinated between 1 June and 31 October each year. The main reason for this is to try and vaccinate all horses during a time when the midges are less active and minimise the risk of a vaccine-related outbreak of African Horse Sickness.

The OBP AHS vaccine is a modified live virus vaccine and as with any live vaccine, there is always a risk that the vaccine strain may be subject to transmission by vectors and other aberrant events. This is well described for other modified live virus vaccines.

Vaccination during high vector periods increases the risk of possible antigen transmission between equines by *Culicoides* vectors, and may present a serious threat to maintaining free zone status according to the OIE guidelines to implementing any form of equine export. From an ethical perspective, vaccinating during high risk periods of the year may present a greater risk to naive equines residing in the AHS controlled area where vaccination is only allowed with permission.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) encourages owners to vaccinate during the lower vector periods of the year when the likelihood of vector transmission is lower. Restricting vaccination to between 1 June and 31 October is never going to suit all horse owners but it is the ethical and responsible response to new research information and it should be encouraged for the whole country.

Dispensation for vaccination outside of this time in the AHS controlled areas must be sought from the National Director of Animal Health by an application made via the local state veterinarian and Provincial Director. No application that has not been endorsed by the Provincial Director will be considered.

# HEALTH

## AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINE UPDATES



### Frequently asked questions

#### Can I vaccinate my horses with another vaccine, such as equine flu, at the same time?

Yes, a horse may receive the equine flu vaccination at the same time and it should not interfere with the African Horse Sickness vaccine. The current equine flu vaccine is an inactivated vaccine and the immunological response to this vaccine therefore differs from that of the Horse Sickness vaccine.

#### What are the requirements for moving registered equines into the controlled area of the Western Cape?

No equine may be moved into or between zones of the AHS controlled area without a movement permit issued by the state veterinarian, no more than two weeks before the movement. Permits can be cancelled in the event of an AHS outbreak and regulations may change depending on the season and the state vet's recommendation.

Horses can currently move within 40 days of their last vaccination (previously 60), but not longer than 24 months from the last vaccination. The movement permits will only be issued if no outbreaks have been reported within a radius of 30km for more than 40 days (previously 30).

#### The following needs to be submitted by the owner/trainer in order to apply for a permit from the state vet, within two weeks of the proposed travel date:

1. The name of the horse, current holding or yard and yard/farm he is going to in the Western Cape, and the transporter. Contact details of the owner/trainer requesting the permit and the details of the contact at the destination.
2. Clear copies of the horse's ID page with passport number and the AHS vaccination page or batches and dates (more than that is not needed – equine flu is irrelevant here).

Once the permit is received it will be

disseminated to the relevant owners/trainers. Within 48 hours of movement the health certificate needs to be signed off by a registered vet. SA

Jockey Club passports for Thoroughbreds can be filled in, on the relevant pages. For international and FEI passports, the vet must fill out and sign a health certificate and send it with the passport. The vet will then complete and sign a pre-notification document for the relevant horse/horses and will email it to the State Vet Boland informing them of the intended movement of the horse into the controlled area.

Permits are valid for two weeks prior to movement, from issue, but can be withdrawn at any time by the state vet should a case of Horse Sickness be reported from the area.

#### Are there new ways of handling a case of African Horse Sickness?

Unfortunately there is still no treatment for this disease and supportive therapy remains the only means of treatment at the time. Keeping horses calm and avoiding any form of stress is very important. Should a horse be close to a referral facility, hospitalisation could prove useful, however, the risk of transportation as a form of stress should be considered.

Supportive therapy such as anti-inflammatories or corticosteroids remains part of the treatment. Antibiotics are rarely indicated unless secondary bacterial infection is suspected. Judicious use of intravenous fluids may be indicated in some cases. Colloidal fluid support such as Voluven may prove valuable. Voluven increases oncotic pull within the vasculature and mimics the function of proteins, maintaining intravenous fluid volume. It is known to maintain these effects even with increased capillary permeability. Unfortunately the cost of these products limits their use in private practice.

Regardless, horses should remain in a stress-free environment, and have access to good-quality water and hay. Monitoring horses for secondary complications is important. These include biliary, as well as oesophageal paralysis resulting in oesophageal obstruction or 'choke'. These horses will require more intensive treatment and may require an indwelling nasogastric tube to assist with feeding until oesophageal function returns.

Should a horse survive, it is recommended to rest him for a minimum of four weeks after clinical signs have subsided.

#### Apart from vaccinating and midge control, is there any other way to boost my horse's immune system?

The immune system is one of the most complex systems in the horse. Like humans, horses should consume nutrients to support all body systems, including the immune system. Supplementation of vitamins and minerals may certainly aid the immune system. It is, however, important for owners to be aware that most vitamins and minerals are only required in very small amounts. Despite evidence that some supplements may be beneficial in certain circumstances, it is also important to understand that wrongful supplementation of vitamins and minerals may be harmful.

There is no specific way of boosting the immunity, and feeding a balanced diet remains one of the most important aspects of equine nutrition. If you feed a balanced diet, you will be supporting the immune system. Feeding a balanced diet, keeping up to date with the vaccination schedule and an appropriate deworming programme are part of basic horse health and will assist in keeping your horse's immunity up to date. 🐾



Fly sprays and other protective measures remain an important defence for horses during the AHS season



## GROOMING

BURNING UP?

TEXT: MANDY SCHRÖDER  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

# Burning up?

Skin and coat care for your horse in summer

**W**e all love to have sleek, shiny and healthy-looking horses. South Africa, with its beautiful sunny climate, can wreak havoc on our horses' coats though. There is nothing worse than a beautiful dark bay looking all bleached and 'burnt' with a coat that has lost its silky texture.

There are a number of ways to protect your horse from the sun – both internal and external. First we need to understand how their skin and coat work and grow.

### THE BASICS

Skin and hair are epithelial tissue, which protect the horse as well as making him beautiful. Hair

grows out of a follicle originating in the dermis, the tissue layer below the epidermis (outer layer of skin). A hair passes through the follicular sheath to the skin surface.

The active (anagen) phase of hair growth occurs when a follicle produces a hair shaft. In the resting (telogen) phase the hair is complete. The root separates, and eventually a new hair grows and dislodges the old one.

A single hair has a hair root, which anchors it, and a hair shaft. Hair comprises a protein (keratin), which is the same protein that makes up the hoof.

Although hair itself is lifeless, it is moisturised by skin oils. The sebaceous gland, connected to the hair follicle, keeps the hair in condition by secreting

a lubricating substance called sebum. These skin oils coat the hairs so they lie flat and shine, which is why good grooming is so important, as it stimulates these glands.

### INTERNAL HEALTH

Always ensure that your horse is well hydrated and that his vitamin and mineral levels are at an optimal level. Just like us, their bodies need to be healthy for their skin and coat to be too.

### Oil

There are a number of oils on the market that can assist in keeping your horse's coat in good condition. Oil not only provides a safe form of

# GROOMING

BURNING UP?

Sun damage can affect the lustre of a dark coat



energy for your horse, but it also helps to maintain his skin and coat in the best condition possible. Linseed or flaxseed oil is highly thought of for producing a healthy skin and shiny coat. A safe form to feed is cold-pressed linseed oil such as Aktiv Equine Flax Seed available at Western Shoppe. Linseed/Flax Oil is high in omega 3 for best results.

Corn oil, sunflower oil and various blends are all available at local feed merchants and tack shops. According to riders we polled regarding oil choice, personal preference and price seem to be the biggest deciding factors in which oil is used.

## Supplements

There are many herbal products available on the market that profess to help maintain coat condition. One that has shown very good results is Honeyvale Herb's Fenu'Shine. Using fenugreek seed, garlic, deep sea kelp, Rosehip and nettle, it increases weight, promotes a deep and lustrous gloss which encourages dappling, and also strengthens and stimulates healthy hoof growth.

## EXTERNAL CARE

You can feed your horse the best food and supplements in the world, but if you don't take care of his coat and protect it from the sun, you won't see great results.

## Rinse and scrape

Always rinse or sponge your horse down after work to remove all sweat. The salt content in sweat bleaches the coat of dark-coloured horses when exposed to the sun.

## UVA- and UVB-resistant sheets and fly masks

Many of the fly sheets and masks on the market today incorporate a wide variety of features, from reflective material to keep your horse cooler to mesh weave to prevent sunburn as well as specific UVA- and UVB-resistant properties.

## Sunscreen

Greys and horses with white markings on their faces may be prone to sunburn that can end up blistering and peeling, which can be incredibly painful for them. Consider using a hypo allergenic sun cream with a high SPF. One suitable for babies is probably safest, but to be safe, test it on a small portion of your horse's skin before applying to large areas. As in humans, it needs to be applied regularly during the day, and gently rinsed off at night to avoid blocking the pores and coating the skin in too much dirt as dust sticks to the cream.

## Coat sprays and conditioners

There are many coat sprays and conditioners available on the market. The theory is that in many of the silicone-

based sprays, the silicone prevents bleaching and sun damage of coats. For many years showing people have used Pledge Furniture Spray as a spray for their dark show horses to prevent bleaching and sunburn. In recent times this has been replaced with specialised products designed specifically for horses.

## Shade and shelter

Providing your horse with an area of shade or bringing him into a stable in the hottest part of the day can also help to maintain a wonderful coat.

## Grooming

Regular grooming promotes a healthy oil content on the skin and coat. This also helps to prevent the coat from burning.

Sun care for your horse involves attention to detail and care on a daily basis. There is no quick fix for a dull, burnt and bleached coat. But the rewards in being proactive are worth the effort. 🐾

## HEALTH

LET THERE BE LIGHT

# LET THERE BE light

TEXT: **CHARLOTTE BASTIAANSE**  
PHOTOGRAPHY: **COURTESY OF EQUILUME**

Using light to  
improve health  
and breeding  
cycles

lengthened days has been used successfully for decades. The period of artificially extended days 'tricks' the horse's body into thinking that summer is approaching. Artificial light exposure has been used to allow for earlier conception in a number of breeds, especially Thoroughbreds.

### HEALTH ASPECTS

Artificial light has also been used for competition horses so that they don't grow excessive winter coats and maintain healthy condition. To obtain an early summer coat, or to prolong the existing summer coat for a few more weeks into the autumn, artificial light can be used to simulate those longer days. 🐾

### LIGHT OPTIONS

Various manufacturers have responded to the research conducted in the use of light on horses. The Equilume Light Mask was developed at the University College Dublin, Ireland. It is an automated device, worn on the horse's head, which provides optimum levels of blue light to a single eye. The mask increases day length to 14.5 hours by activating at dusk and remaining on until approximately 11pm. It is low frequency, low intensity, and non-heat – meaning that it emits light that will not attract insects in the way that a normal wavelength of white light would.

#### Manufacturers claim that the device provides the following benefits:

- Advances breeding season for early conception.
- Helps to prevent prolonged gestation.
- Increases average foal birth weight.
- Improves coat condition for sale or competition.
- Optimises stallion performance early in the breeding season.
- Permits outdoor maintenance.
- Reduces maintenance costs.
- Encourages natural behaviour for happier, healthier horses.

For more information, visit [www.equilume.co.za](http://www.equilume.co.za) or email [Margaret@equilume.com](mailto:Margaret@equilume.com).

The Equilume Light Mask is an automated device which provides optimum levels of blue light to a single eye

**E**ver wondered why foals are born during the summer? Horses are seasonal breeding animals, meaning that they prefer to breed during the light summer seasons. A horse's gestation period is 11 months, so a mare will foal down in the next summer season. The reason for this is that animals of prey who are born during the warm and light season have a better chance of survival.

### THE INFLUENCE OF LIGHT ON BREEDING

The hormone melatonin is produced during the hours of darkness and is at low levels during

hours of light. When released, it provides the horse with a means of translating the seasonal changes in day length into a hormonal signal that regulates the reproductive system, as well as other physiological changes such as losing winter coats and increased robustness.

### MANAGING FOALING SEASONS

For some time breeders have manipulated horses' natural breeding seasons to accommodate various factors. In many instances there are challenges in getting barren mares in foal, or getting mares to return to normal cycles after foaling. The practice of exposing barren mares to artificially

# BUSINESS

## HOLIDAY STAFF

If your horse is your most precious possession, can you trust the temp to care for him while you're away?

# Holiday staff

Can the 'temp' groom do the trick?

TEXT: MANDY SCHRÖDER  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

**W**e all look forward to our holidays and can't wait to lie back, relax and soak up some sun. How many of us actually get to relax though, when we have horses to think about back home? Not only do we have to find a suitable 'horse sitter', but we often have to worry about having temporary staff while our trusted grooms are away on holiday too.

With modern technology, we are usually available at the other end of a phone call, email or social media message. For peace of mind though it is best to have everything clearly spelled out before you leave.

For those of us lucky enough to have our horses at home, we can schedule our holidays at different times to those of our grooms. For the purposes of this article though we look at both, with tips and guidelines to make sure that your holiday is filled with rest and relaxation.

### HORSE SITTERS

Finding a horse sitter often involves word of mouth references from friends, your vet, farrier

“

IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO GET THEM TO COME AND WORK AT YOUR YARD TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH YOUR ROUTINE AND YOUR PERMANENT STAFF BEFORE YOU LEAVE

”

or instructor. Meet the person and discuss your expectations; for example, will they be staying on your property or checking in twice a day?

Make sure that they know what your horse's normal behaviour is – if your horse sleeps flat on his side every day for a few hours, explain that this is nothing to be concerned about. Knowing this can prevent expensive, unnecessary vet call-outs.

Let them spend a few hours with you, interacting with your horses, while you ask the questions that are important to you. Introducing them to your staff is vital; they will have to communicate well while you are away so it is important for them to understand one another.

Leave clear lists of who your important contacts are and make sure that your sitter has a good idea of how you like problems handled, such as treatment budgets and whether issues like surgery are acceptable or not.

### BIG DECISIONS

Prepare for the worst. It is vital to have a person who is nominated to make 'life or death' decisions for you, in the event that you can't be reached. Your vet should know who this person is, and that they have your permission to make serious decisions. Your vet also needs to know that you are away and that you will honour bills should your sitter have to call them in.

Some vets may require a copy of your credit card as surety.

It is also very important to list who your doctor is (for staff members in the event of an accident), the nearest clinics, numbers for your security company, fire department, plumber, electrician and Eskom, for example. Murphy often rears his head when the owner is away. Rather than having your sitter panicking because your borehole has stopped working, let them have all the numbers and contact details of your chosen tradespeople.

### TEMPORARY STAFF

Most horse owners find temporary grooms through their existing staff, very often family members or friends. It is a good idea to get them to come and work at your yard to become familiar with your routine and your permanent staff before you leave. In this way they learn your horses' individual quirks and habits. You also have a chance of observing how they handle your horses and if you are happy with them.

Keep a photocopy of their ID and if they are not South African, ensure that they have a valid work permit. Keep a copy of this and their passport in the event that you need to produce it should you be queried on the legality of their employment.

Most horse owners adhere to the old manner of employing temporary staff by paying them cash for the period that they are employed. South Africa has been updating its labour laws and as of 1 January 2015, there are stricter rules in place regarding temporary employment: "The Labour Relations Amendment Act came into operation on 1 January 2015 and places significant restrictions on the use of 'non-standard' employees, including fixed-term and part-time contracts. Employers would be remiss if they do not take note and adapt their employment policies and practices accordingly."

A limited duration (fixed-term) contract is one entered into for a temporary period. It terminates due to effluxion of time on:

- the occurrence of a specified event.
- the completion of a specified task or project.
- a fixed date (other than normal/agreed retirement age).

There are a number of risks for employers associated with making use of temporary employment. Some of these risks always existed, however, specific statutory protection has now

been added in respect of certain categories of employees, according to Judith Griessel on the Labour Guide site.\*

The single most important take-home message when employing temporary staff is to make absolutely sure that they understand the boundaries within which they are being employed. To be covered by South African law, an employer has to be 100% clear to ensure that there is no expectation of further employment.

Planning for the worst and 'what if' scenarios means that you should have a completely worry-free and relaxing holiday, and return home to happy, relaxed and possibly slightly fatter horses, ready to start work with a bang ... or possibly a buck! 🐎

*\* Source: [www.labourguide.co.za/most-recent/2004-temporary-employment-in-2015](http://www.labourguide.co.za/most-recent/2004-temporary-employment-in-2015)*



Finding trustworthy caregivers during the holiday period can be a challenge

### HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

- Leave contact numbers for all important contacts.
- Advise your vet, farrier, insurance company or medical aid and even your feed merchant that you will be away and who your horse sitter is.
- Make sure that the stable routine is clearly posted.
- Have all passports and medical history available.
- Have plenty of food, bedding and hay in stock.
- Make sure that your grooms or head grooms have airtime for emergencies.



An Exmoor stallion displaying the abundant mane and lighter muzzle or 'pangaré' markings typical of the breed

**MORE INFORMATION**  
VISIT [EXMOORPONYSOCIETY.ORG](http://EXMOORPONYSOCIETY.ORG).  
UK OR LIKE THE EXMOOR PONY  
SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK.



The Exmoor Pony is a small, stocky breed designed to withstand harsh weather

# THE EXMOOR PONY

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

Ancient roots

**N**ative to the British Isles, the Exmoor Pony has ancient roots in the area – fossil remains of ponies have been found on Exmoor dating back to about 50,000BC. While the Exmoor is not a direct descendant of these ponies, he bears a striking resemblance to them. Historical literature puts the Pony on the Exmoors in 1086 and some still roam wild in this area.

The Exmoor almost ceased to exist after the Second World War – reportedly due to being used for target practice when the moor became a training ground, and being stolen for meat. Only 50 ponies survived the war; however, efforts by breeders brought them back from the brink and ongoing publicity increased their popularity.

### BUILT TO SURVIVE

The Exmoor is a small (between 11.1hh and 12.3hh), stocky pony but strong for his size. He sports a deep chest, broad back and short legs with good bone. Designed for hardiness, the breed has a coat which is able to withstand the cold winters of the area. Combining a woolly insulating underlayer and a longer, oilier topcoat, the hairs divert water down the sides of the horse and keep the undercoat from becoming waterlogged. The thick mane and tail also deflect moisture – coarse hair at the dock of the tail, also called a 'frost cap', cause rain to run to the ground without reaching the groin or underbelly.

The ponies are almost always a shade of brown with lighter markings, called pangaré, around

the eyes, muzzle, flanks and underbelly. The studbook does not allow white markings. This uniformity of colour, along with the sturdiness, has made the breed popular with carriage enthusiasts. While in the past Exmoors were used as pit ponies, modern fans use them for showing, long distance riding and horse agility, which is an international discipline similar to dog agility. The herds are also used to maintain vegetation on nature reserves.

### STATUS

The Exmoor appears on various rare breed lists including the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, the Livestock Conservancy and the Equus Survival Trust which has listed the breed as 'critical' – meaning that there are estimated to be 100 to 300 active adult breeding mares in the world. While a census is currently in progress with the Exmoor Pony Society, statistics in 2010 put the population at 800 ponies worldwide. 🐾

# ARAB

Our quarterly feature  
on South Africa's  
versatile Arabians

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# Stud profile: AMAL HAYATI ARABIANS

Focused on success

TEXT: BRIGITTE BILLINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHY: H2 PHOTOGRAPHY



YP Amurrah (the Arabic word for 'Cute') one of Amal Hayati's homebred mares, ridden by the stud's trainer Stephen Serame

**A**mal Hayati Arabians is a family-driven stud on a beautiful game farm on the outskirts of Heidelberg, Gauteng. The founder, Yvette Pieterse, has had a love for horses since childhood and spent her early days playing 'horsey horsey'.

"Horses have always been part of my life while growing up," she tells HQ. "Before we started breeding I owned a Thoroughbred named Prince. My daughter and I always joined in all the pleasure rides we could attend. At one of these rides, there was a prize given away on a quarter mile race. Having the only Thoroughbred at this ride, it was quite easy to win! The prize was a breeding to a very beautiful Straight Egyptian stallion named Arabest Shaam. At that stage I owned no Arabs and had no mare I could use to this beautiful stallion."

The dilemma turned out to be the foundation for the birth of the stud, as Yvette set out to find a suitable Arabian mare in 2008.

### TRIAL AND ERROR

The experience proved to be a valuable learning curve. "Through trial and error, I have come to the realisation that some of the smaller breeders sit with hidden gems, selling their horses at a fraction of what the bigger studs charge. I know how difficult it is for the small studs to promote their horses amid the giants out there. Unfortunately, money talks and rules the economy."

An avid endurance rider, Yvette initially focused on the endurance sector. "I only had the intention of breeding riding horses especially for endurance purposes. My daughter and I partook in many endurance rides, qualifying for the Free State team at Fauresmith and riding within Springbok times with our horses. My stallion Elmar Echo and I obtained a 15th place in the Standard Weight division at our second Fauresmith."

### FAMILY LOVE

However, the stud's breeding programme continued to evolve and Yvette broadened her focus to showing. "Two years ago I relocated to my parents' farm in Heidelberg and my parents then got involved in the stud. We decided to get into the showing side as well and purchased the amazing stallion, Armika Justlike, and two additional mares."

This decision proved to be successful and the



Amal Hayati line has become recognised on the showing circuit. "For the past two years we have now been showing, and becoming more successful. We are super proud of all the Champion, Reserve Champion and Top Five placements we have received thus far. The face of the initial Amal Hayati Arabians has drastically changed from endurance breeding to incorporate the more refined show breeding as well."

### VERSATILITY FIRST

Yvette explains the need for horses with multiple talents. "Our aim is to breed versatile horses who are pretty enough to show but can also be good riding horses. Most important of all they must have super temperaments," she says. "Having Armika Justlike in our stables, together with the other stallions we have ranging from Straight Egyptian to Polish and English-bred, we are able to achieve this goal. Justlike is a very spirited, pretty stallion with a heart of gold, having numerous Champion Halter Achievements behind his name, as well as Ridden Championships. Our other stallions are also champions in either showing or endurance and their offspring are performing just as well."

Yvette adds that the stud continues to explore new avenues and some of the stallions are suitable for colour breeding on palominos and towards pinto breeding programmes. "We also breed part-bred Arabians and have two youngsters ready for their show debut."

### FACILITIES

It's no secret that breeding takes space and additional resources. The move to Heidelberg has allowed the family to expand their services to other competitive owners. "Our stables have been extended to offer the services of stabling five outside horses or to provide training to five outside horses. All the stables are 4x4m, and spacious enough to accommodate mare and foal or bigger breeds of horses." Training facilities include a lunging ring and riding arena with ample riding space among the game and beautiful surrounding scenery.

Yvette admits that the journey hasn't been easy, but it's worth the effort. "Success takes hard work and dedication and is not earned overnight. It takes time and a lot of setbacks, which you learn from; only then is success born," she concludes. 🐾



YP Azrak, a colt bred by the stud



Yvette's daughter, Lorinda Pieterse riding Amal stallion, Xian Ventura



The family behind the Amal Hayati name

TEXT: DEWALD MALAN  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: MAGMEMFOTO

# Gauteng

## REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Events on the Gauteng calendar

**T**he Arab Horse Society of South Africa (Gauteng region) hosted its Arab Regional Championships from 20 to 24 August 2015 at Misty Meadows in Gauteng. This is the second year that this event was hosted at this venue and it was well attended, with over 125 top quality horses competing.

▼ **Champion Junior Costume Horse –  
 Amaar Aladdin with Henk Cronjé**



### THE JUDGES

South Africa's Sue Goodman judged the English Ridden classes and was inspired by the quality of the horses and horsemanship. She put the riders through a rigorous test in the Adult/Junior Rider classes and although there were quite feisty Arabs in these classes, the riders passed with flying colours.

Sue was asked before the judging to choose a horse who impressed her most in terms of presence and character, and she chose Dana Shalimar (imp) from Animus Gratus Trust, beautifully ridden by Llara Vorster. Dana Shalimar is one of the few Baywatch V daughters in South Africa. She was born in Washington DC and was imported to South Africa in 2006 together with her brother, sisters and Baywatch V.

John (Buck) Grass was the international Formal Judge and he was equally impressed with the quality of our horses. On the closing night of the event he joined the members at a braai and enjoyed answering questions about the horses at the show. He too was asked to choose a horse who stood out for him – he felt Mosaic V (imp), owned by Zudotype PTY LTD and shown by Thinus Sonnekus, was inspiring. This impressive stallion was incidentally also the Senior Champion Stallion at the show.

### GAUTENG STARS

The showing event was concluded by the Gauteng Stars held at the Pretoria Showgrounds, where horses performed a freestyle to music. At this occasion the Gauteng Arab Society also honoured their members who had **outstandingly contributed to the Arabian breed** throughout the years. Wesley Hayes, National President of the South African Arab Horse Society, presented the following members with a large dinner plate decorated by Caren Lubbe:

- Chris Steil
- Ami de Wet
- Ingrid Danheimer
- Sue Cook
- Kim Niemann
- Billy van Gemmert
- Prof Boyzuglu
- Mervin Woodrow
- Welma Joubert



**Junior Western Pleasure Horse Champion – HA Rodrigo** with Anton van der Laan in the saddle. With him (left to right): mr W Pieterse (owner), Prof C McCrindle (sponsor of the Ilizwe Trophy) and Buck Grass (USA judge)



**Champion Filly under 12 months – HS Haya Justina** shown by Wynand Boucher



**Senior Champion Mare Dana Sashay (imp), shown by Fransisca Strydom**



**Champion Senior Show Hack – Shiraz Al-Bikr** with Henk Cronjé



**Champion Senior Hunter Pleasure Horse – El-Wicro BelCrown** with Lori van der Laan

# الحصان

## HQ ARAB

### GAUTENG REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### THE CHAMPIONS

The standard of the horses entered into the Gauteng Championships was of a high quality and the competition was quite strong. The following Champions emerged from the show:

- **Colt Foal Champion:** HA Sir Amadeus, owned by Aucamp Arabians and shown by Victor Botha.
- **Foal Champion:** HS Haya Justina, owned by Strydom Arabian Stud and shown by Wynand Bouwer.
- **Junior Champion Mare:** FS Moonlight Bay, owned by Zudotype PTY LTD and shown by Thinus Sonnekus.
- **Junior Champion Colt:** FS Mouazar, owned by K Nell and shown by Francisca Strydom.
- **Senior Champion Mare:** Dana Sashay (imp), owned by Zudotype PTY LTD and shown by Fransisca Strydom.
- **Senior Champion Stallion:** Mosaic V (imp), owned by Zudotype PTY LTD and shown by Thinus Sonnekus.
- **Champion Gelding:** AS Farhan, owned by Tharina Wessels and shown by Thinus Sonnekus.
- **Junior Champion Purebred English Pleasure Horse:** Amaar Aladdin, owned and shown by Henk Cronjè.
- **Senior Champion Country Pleasure Horse:** Priscilla V (imp), owned by Rachelle Arabian Stud and ridden by Rachelle le Grange.
- **Champion Dressage:** Ebisu Prinzuët, owned and ridden by Kirsten de Beer.
- **Champion Purebred Open Riding Horse as well as Champion Purebred Horse:** Anjlik Passion, owned by Fair Cloud Stud and ridden by JJ Kemp.
- **Senior Champion Purebred Hunter Pleasure Horse:** El-Wicro BelCrown, owned and ridden by L van der Laan.
- **Junior Champion Purebred Show Hack:** Amaar Aladdin, owned and ridden by Henk Cronjè.
- **Junior Champion Purebred Country Pleasure Horse:** HA Afire Maximus, owned by K Valkenburg and ridden by Anton van der Laan.
- **Junior Champion Purebred Costume Horse:** Amaar Aladdin, owned and ridden by Henk Cronjè.



Kirsten de Beer on Prinzuët – Adult Dressage Champion

- **Champion Purebred Novice Riding Horse:** Alicia Rac, owned by Bandini Farms and ridden by Alexandra Maloney.
- **Champion Purebred Child/Junior Riding Horse:** Dana Shalimar (imp), owned by Animus Gratus Trust and ridden by Llara Vorster.
- **Senior Champion Purebred English Pleasure Horse:** Apalanation (imp), owned by Paetska Arabian Stud and ridden by Boshoff Grobler.
- **Junior Champion Purebred Hunter Pleasure Horse:** FS Malaika, owned by Tisa Estates and ridden by Victor Botha.
- **Senior Champion Purebred Show Hack:** Shiraz Al-Bikr, owned and ridden by Henk Cronjè.
- **Champion Purebred Junior Western Pleasure Horse:** HA Rodrigo, owned by SWP Arabiere and ridden by Anton van der Laan. This horse also received a floating trophy called the Ilizwe Trophy sponsored by Prof McCrindle.
- **Champion Purebred Country Pleasure Driving:** Amaar Lladina, owned by Henk Cronjè and driven by Richard Waddington.
- **Senior Champion Purebred Costume Horse:** Apalanation (imp), owned by Paetska Arabian Stud and ridden by Boshoff Grobler. 🐾



Champion Open Riding Horse – Anjlik Passion with JJ Kemp



TEXT: MARIE-LOUISE VAN WYK  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

# Judging

## IN THE HOLY LAND

Second Holy Lands Championship in Jericho, Palestine



The stunning Jayda al Rabi (Majd al Rabi x Shatha al Rabi x Marwan al Shaqab) obtained the highest points of the show at the 2015 Holy Land Show

for breakfast the next morning and soon we were on our way to Jericho close to the Dead Sea.

The showgrounds were packed with spectators and competitors all awaiting our arrival and a tangible air of anticipation and excitement was noticeable.

All went quiet while passages were read from the *Koran*, after which we all stood for the national anthem of Palestine. The national flags of our countries blew gently in the welcome breeze mounted above the stands – it gave me a real sense of pride and goose bumps to see the South African flag flying among the Swedish, Palestinian and Belgian flags in the bright warm sunshine of what promised to be quite a hot day.

### FULL CLASSES

The officials asked us if we would be prepared to judge into the late evening as well. The show had 120 horses entered in 14 classes, which would be followed by four Championship classes. If we would agree they could finish the show in one day and we could have the next two days free for stud visits and sightseeing. We were quite happy to comply and before long the first class of colts born in 2015 entered the well-appointed arena. Our ringmaster, Qais al Hafi, indicated that all nine colts were present, some with their dams, and that judging could commence.

### POINT SYSTEM

The European point system was being used for the show with marks out of 20 in the five categories with half points allowed. The winner was Jamaal el Sa'eedi (Al Sa'eedi x Ayat el Jamaal AF) born 2 February 2015 and the runner-up was Ashham al Rabi (Nader el Jamaal x Hanouf al Rabi) born 1 April 2015. Both very promising young babies.

The fillies born in 2015 followed and here 12 fillies were forward with the winner Moaderet al Jammal (Mouadaar BKV x Musaliat al Jamaal) born 15 January 2015, and in second place Jawhanet al Daher (Jawhar al Qasem x Filar) born 2 April 2015. Each class was followed by a presentation of trophies for the first five places and the winners were declared as champions of their age group.

The Palestinians truly show their emotions and happiness when it comes to winning, with the whole family and stable hands gathering around the winner with the trophy along with cheers and

A real challenge landed on my desk during April in the form of an invitation from the Palestinian Arab Horse Society to judge at their second Holy Lands Championship on 1 May 2015 in Jericho, Palestine. It was an invitation I could not refuse, and before long I was on my way to Tel Aviv, Israel.

I was met at the Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv by a driver who transported me to Jerusalem, where I would be staying for the next four days in the wonderful 120-year-old American Colony Hotel. The hotel is personified by classic Arabian arches, beautiful gardens, elaborate furnishings and opulent suites.

Upon arrival I met Lena Awad, one of the show organisers, who had promised to meet me there for a traditional breakfast and then take me on a short orientation tour of the city of

Jerusalem. Lena and I hit it off immediately – it always amazes me how the Arab horse can bring strangers together!

Our drive through the city passed all the main sights such as the Old City Wall with its seven gates. We drove to a vantage point high above the city and from there we could see the Mount of Olives below us, the Garden of Gethsemane and in the distance the golden Dome of the Rock on Mount Moriah.

### SENIOR JUDGES

The Palestinian Arab Horse Society had invited three senior international judges for their show – myself from South Africa, Koenraad Detaillieur (Belgium) and Pekka Paakkonen (Sweden). They were to arrive during that night in time for the show which would start the next day. We all met



Celebration – Palestinian style!



TH Hamza (AJ Justified x Hadia), 2015 Reserve Senior Champion Stallion



It is a tradition at this show that the judges should ride camels in the arena before the Championship classes are adjudicated – Marie-Louise van Wyk is up!



Jayda al Rabi and Majd al Rabi (right) with their triumphant owner, Ashraf al Rabi, holding the trophy aloft



Majd al Rabi (Magnum Chall HVP x Selket Obsession) Senior Champion Stallion 2015

singing and congratulations all round – just as if it were a wedding!

Next in were seven colts born in 2014 – here the winner was RB Nagem (Windsprees Mirage x Sabeha) and in second place Mehrab al Shaqab (Ghazal al Shaqab x Zanubia).

### STRONGEST CLASS

To me the next class was probably the strongest of the day. Fillies born in 2014 with 15 entries. Here the winner was the very striking and beautiful bay Jayda al Rabi (Majd al Rabi x Shatha al Rabi). Her sire Majd al Rabi is a Magnum Chall HVP son out of Selket Obsession and was bred in the USA, and her dam Shatha al Rabi is a daughter of Marwan al Shaqab.

In second and close on her heels was Ghazal al Khatib (Marajj x Asalet al Khatib). Jayda al

Rabi was obviously a very popular win as the spectators stormed into the arena and went wild with happiness while the trophy ceremony took longer than most!

That completed the yearling sections and to follow were three classes of junior fillies, followed by three classes of junior colts. After lunch it was time for the senior classes of mares and stallions. It was no surprise when Jayda al Rabi's sire Majd al Rabi was awarded first place in the Five-year-old Stallion class. He is a very handsome chestnut stallion with loads of presence and a lot of promise for the future.

### BLESSINGS

During a trophy presentation in the morning, representatives of three religious denominations were called into the ring to say a few words. They

gave their blessing for the show and actually handed over the trophies to the winners of that particular section. They were represented by a bishop from the Greek Orthodox Church, a Jewish rabbi and an imam from the Muslim community.

They have a tradition at this show that the judges should ride camels in the arena before the Championship classes are adjudicated! This came as a surprise as we three judges were escorted to mount the camels. We were paraded around the arena several times while competitors, owners and organisers all danced and chanted traditional songs around us – it was an unbelievable experience which I will never forget. The warmth and hospitality of these people was overwhelming, and their love for their horses was such a great revelation as well as the



superb quality of the horses who were shown to us with obvious pride and self-respect.

The sun was setting in the west when the Championship classes were called to the fore under spotlights. I can mention here that I felt quite at home as they experienced a power failure during the first championship! After a break of about 45 minutes, the power was restored and we could continue.

## SHOW RESULTS

Jayda al Rabi, the winner of the class for Yearling Fillies, was called into the arena as the winner of the 'Horse with the Most Points' at the show for her elated and ecstatic owners. She received a special trophy and prize. I predict a very successful show career for this beautiful, eye-catching bay filly.

**Junior Champion Filly** – Ostura (2012), Solaz J x Al Waad

**Reserve Junior Champion Filly** – Rahaf (2012), Nader el Jamaal x Mashaala Aleha

**Junior Champion Colt** – Masoud DD (2013), Solaz J x Jawhara al Oktab

**Reserve Junior Champion Colt** – Lujain (2013), Kahil al Shaqab x Laila B

**Senior Champion Mare** – ZK African Ruwaia (2008), MD el Sperado x G African Fantezia

**Reserve Senior Champion Mare** – Sima ABD (2008), Jaayd x Maaisa

**Senior Champion Stallion** – Majd al Rabi (2010), Magnum Chall HVP x Selket Obsession

**Reserve Senior Champion Stallion** – TH Hamza (2011), AJ Justified x Hadia

Thus ended a fabulous day of judging in Palestine. After all the goodbyes and farewells we were taken to a very traditional restaurant for a late dinner in Jericho, known as the City of the Moon. We returned tired but satisfied with a job well done to our hotel in Jerusalem well after midnight.

## SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

We spent the next two days sightseeing and stud visiting in the capable hands of Sufian Taha and his lovely wife Rania. We went to the Al Rabi stud near Jericho where Jayda al Rabi comes from.



ZK Africa Ruwaia (MD el Sperado x G African Fantezia) – Senior Champion Mare at the show



Muranas Jameel (PFA Karim x Jana al Bri) – winner of the Six-year Stallions class

We enjoyed seeing her and her dam and sire in natural conditions.

We spent some time in Bethlehem and paid a poignant visit to the Church of the Nativity. We also paid a visit to the ancient Roman city of Nablus where we spent time in the antique market place and tasted traditional sesame halva, visited an olive soap factory and enjoyed the most delicious loquat fruit as big as large apricots!

We were also taken to Ramallah where we saw the tomb of the late Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and experienced the everyday hardships

of these people. What we see here at home on the television is so sensational and certainly not the true Palestine and its people.

Our visit ended in the late afternoon at a stud farm that overlooks the Dome of the Rock where a new foal had been born the night before. The owner was anxious for our opinion about the lovely foal. Everywhere we went we were welcomed with open arms and afforded great hospitality. I truly hope that I can return again one day to this ancient land and its wonderful people. 🐾

TEXT: **WESLEY HAYES**  
PHOTOGRAPHY: **MANIE WARD – PHOTO PIXEL ART**

# SANESA

## ENDURANCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arabians make waves in the  
SANESA classes



Mieke van Heerden with Siloah Ahmad (left) and Bianca Pretorius with Blackstone Itam (right) receive their awards from Wesley Hayes (President of the Arab Horse Society of South Africa) and Marlene du Plessis (President of SANESA)

**R**ecently the SANESA Endurance National Championships were held in Fauresmith – and this year's event saw almost twice as many eligible teams competing.

### AGREEMENT WITH SANESA

Two years ago the Arab Horse Society of South Africa and SANESA entered into a working agreement that the Arab Horse Society would support SANESA by donating floating trophies for the SANESA Endurance National Champion Arabian, Part-bred Arabian, Anglo Arabian or Pintabian in the Primary and High School categories.

The single prerequisite was that only SANESA competitors whose horses were registered or recorded with the Arab Horse Society of South Africa would be eligible for these trophies. This year's number of eligible competitors was almost double that of last year.

### FORMULA FOR ENTRY

A formula was adopted whereby the adjusted speed as calculated over all the qualifiers, which were used to determine provincial team selection according to SANESA rules, together with the adjusted speed obtained at the national event, were used to determine the overall winner in each division. Calculations covered both Primary and High School riders.

The day before the ride, competitors who were eligible for national schools team selection

took part in a Performance Riding test which will in future also contribute to the calculation of the winners of the Arab Endurance Horse Trophies. This test is a simple one which each competitor performs in order to prove their ability as a competent rider, and also show the level of schooling the horse has had in order to perform simple leg changes and attest to the horse's suppleness.

### TESTING LIMITS

The day of the ride dawned and in true Fauresmith fashion the sun beat down on horse and rider to test each to their limit. Most would know the story of the tortoise and the hare often applies to horses: it's not always the fastest horse who wins. This year was no exception, as those who maintained a steady pace and rode with an understanding of their horse's capabilities were victorious on the day.

### AHSSA INVITED

SANESA sent a special invitation to the President of the Arab Horse Society of South Africa, Wesley Hayes, to attend the prizegiving and award the Arab trophies to their winners. Wesley was astounded to see the SANESA competitors' excitement and willingness at the event. He was also proud to see so many Arabs, Part-bred Arabs and Anglo Arabs competing for what has very quickly become the prestigious and exalted SANESA National Arabian Endurance Cup.

Wesley was given the opportunity to address the competitors at the evening prizegiving function, where he thanked SANESA's president, Marlene du Plessis, for her positive working relationship with the Arab Society and for the opportunity to present the trophies.

### BUY REGISTERED

Wesley cautioned would-be Arab buyers to ensure that when buying an Arabian, Part-bred Arab, Anglo Arab or Pintabian, that the horse is registered or recorded with the Arab Horse Society of South Africa. A horse can only be called a registered Arabian or recorded Part-bred Arab, Anglo Arab or Pintabian if the breeder can provide the purchaser with papers issued by the Arab Horse Society of South Africa. These papers must transfer ownership to the buyer on purchase.

### CLASS WINNERS

The winners of the event were deservedly Bianca Pretorius on Blackstone Itam (Primary School), bred by Mrs DF Kock of Blackstone Stud in Witbank, and Mieke van Heerden on Siloah Ahmad (High School), bred by R Lubbinge of Zwavelpoort. The excitement and enthusiastic applause was overwhelming for the winners, who received their trophies and posed for photographs together with their worthy Arabians. Congratulations to the breeders on producing these top quality junior horses. 🐾



Mieke van Heerden and Siloah Ahmad loving the ride



Enjoying the camaraderie of the ride



Young riders set out on the track

TEXT: WESLEY HAYES  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

# Crabbet

## FOUNDATIONS

The amazing Azrak

**S**outh Africa has been fortunate to see some of the most amazing Crabbet Arabians brought upon its shores. However, some never came directly to South Africa, but rather via other African countries like Zimbabwe.

One of these was the 100% Crabbet stallion Azrak, who was bred by Mrs EM Thomas in Gardenside, Devon in the United Kingdom. It has always been widely believed that Azrak was imported directly into South Africa. The truth is he was exported to what was then known as Rhodesia, by a Mrs JP Goode, who owned Rhaiadr Pony Stud and Waterfall Ranch. Azrak arrived on 15 November 1968.

### TWIST OF FATE

On 17 July 1969 he was bought by Mrs P Worthington of Charter Estates, Salisbury, before what can only be described as a twist of fate, when Mrs Goode bought Azrak back on 31 October

1970, only to sell him on to Mr A McPhie-Morgan of Glenmorgan Farm and Agha Arabian Stud, South Africa on 26 November 1970. Here he stayed to leave his legacy in South Africa.

### ROYAL FAMILY

Azrak was no ordinary Crabbet stallion. His pedigree reads like the who's who of the Crabbet royal family. His dam was the famous mare Silent Wings, bred by Lady Wentworth herself, who was the British Junior Female National Arab Champion in 1957. Silent Wings, a 1954 chestnut mare, upheld her dam Silfina's reputation splendidly, and was just like her dam, who had bred the famous Sindh, who was exported to Australia. She had 15 foals, some of the most notable of who were: Yemama (by Indian Magic), a 1959 grey mare; \*Zilla (by Indian Magic), a 1960 grey mare; and of course Azrak (by Blue Domino).

Born in 1964, he was described in the South

African Arabian Stud Book Volume 2 as a dark chestnut, with a blaze extending to cover his muzzle and underlip, with a near-fore sock higher inside, and long socks on off-fore and both hind legs.

His sire, Blue Domino, needs little introduction to those who know their Crabbet Arabians, as he is arguably one of the top five greatest Crabbet sires ever to have lived. Despite having been bred by Hanstead Stud, he was still 100% Crabbet. His stamp was evident, and in a 1956 Hanstead advertisement, it was noted that his "stock are very promising, good movers with good heads." This is true of his son Azrak, and in turn, his descendants.

Blue Domino sired champion after champion and his son Azrak was no exception. Of the many foals sired by Blue Domino, Ludo and Blue Magic are two who immediately come to mind.

### QUALITY ACROSS CONTINENTS

Prior to being exported to Zimbabwe, Azrak sired the well-known 100% Crabbet sire, Silver Blue, in his one foal crop in the United Kingdom, who was also in turn a successful sire and is now a sought-after name in Crabbet pedigrees of today.

While at the Agha Stud, Azrak sired 26 pure Arab foals, of whom his most notable progeny were the fillies Agha Azrabi, Agha Azmoya and Shari Silic Marizka. Of his colts, Deselie Marak, Agha Aznar and Agha Danazrak were of importance.

Agha Danazrak was the most important of the foals bred in South Africa, as not only was his dam the Crabbet mare Olford Dancing Storm, but it was through him that the Azrak blood prevails in Crabbet horses in South Africa today. Agha Danazrak sired the Crabbet stallion Olford Danny Boy, who will feature in his own story, but it was through this that the blood of Azrak perpetuated in the Crabbets at Olford through his two great-grandsons, Olford Sera-Victor and Olford Sera-Domino.

When one looks at these two Crabbet stallions, it is like looking at Azrak himself; the chestnut with white perpetuates, with neat compact bodies complete with excellent temperament and bone.

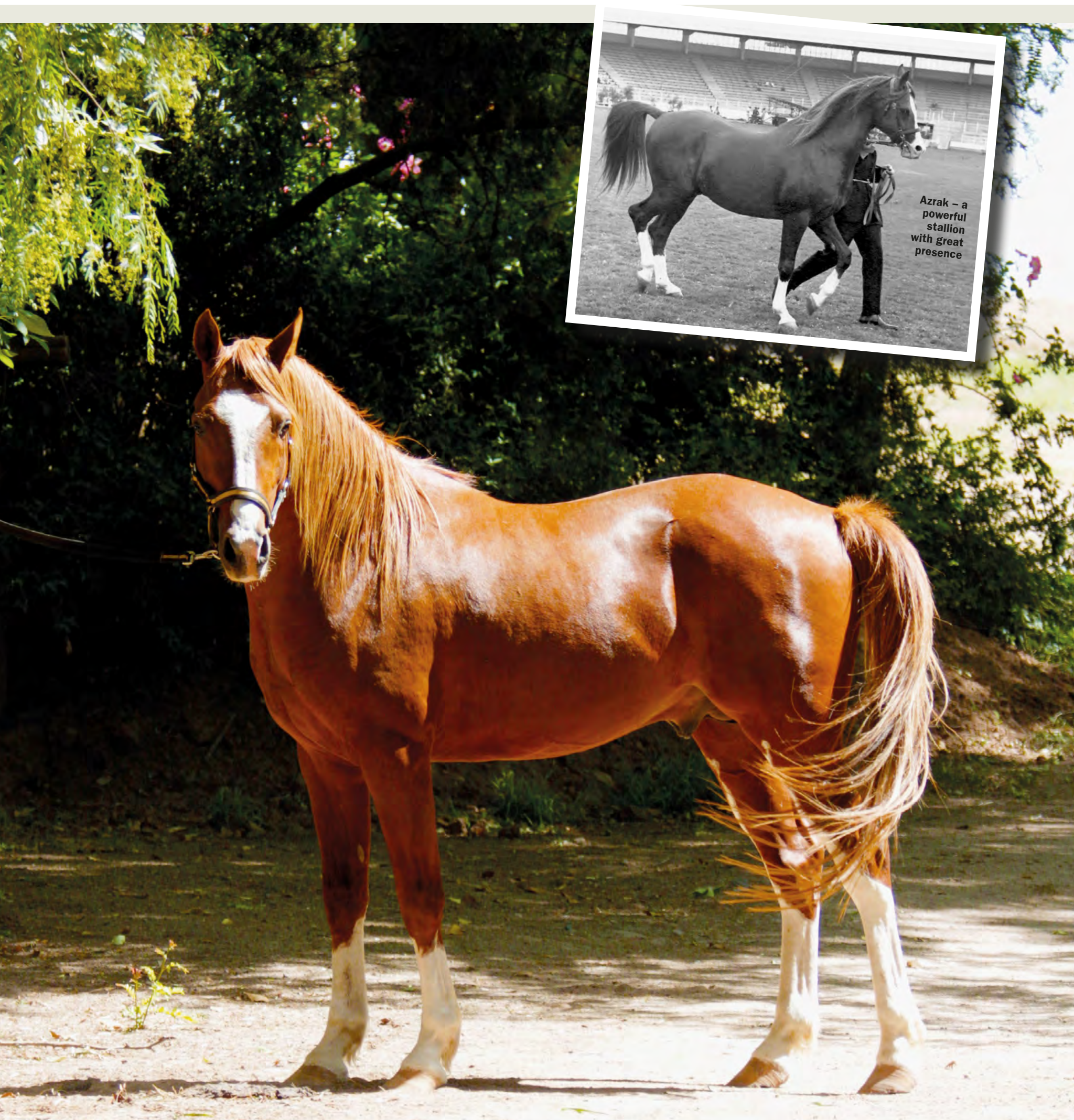
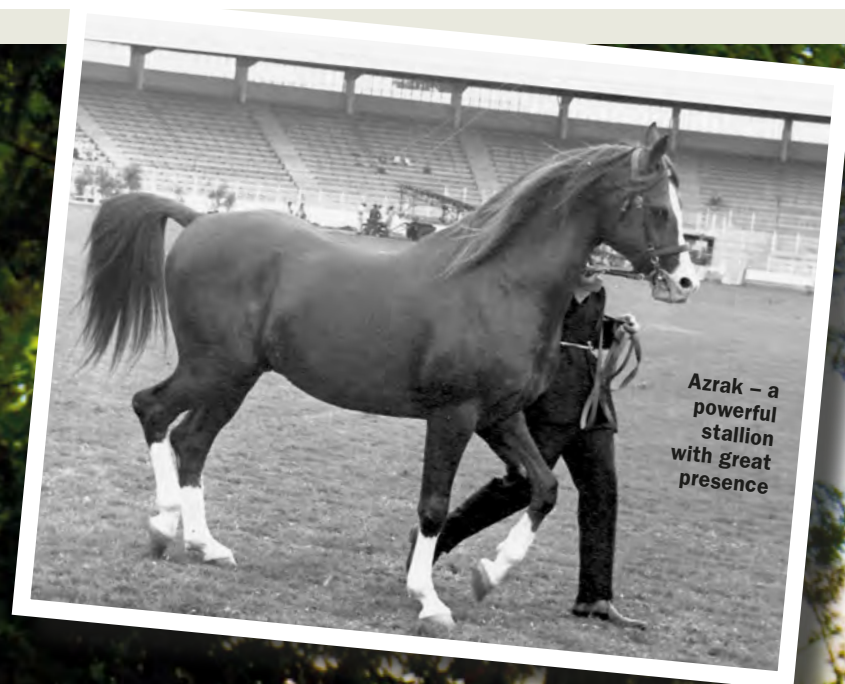
His influence goes wider than the Crabbets of South Africa. Through his son, Silver Blue, in the Crabbet Arabians of the United Kingdom, those who own recorded Part-bred Arab ponies must scrutinise their pedigrees and are bound to find Azrak in there too. 🐾



Azrak at the Rand Easter Show in 1972

**SOURCES:**  
ROSEMARY ARCHER, COLIN PEARSON AND CECIL COVEY, *THE CRABBET ARABIAN STUD: ITS HISTORY AND INFLUENCE*  
DEIRDRE HYDE, *40 YEARS OF BRITISH ARAB HORSE CHAMPIONS*  
RJ CADRANELL, *HANSTEAD HORSES*  
KAT WALDEN, *ARABIAN SPORT HORSE HISTORY: BLOODLINES – SILENT WINGS (ORAN X SILFINA)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ARAB HORSE  
IN SOUTH AFRICA, VISIT THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE  
AT [WWW.ARABHORSE.CO.ZA](http://WWW.ARABHORSE.CO.ZA).



A striking resemblance – Azrak stamped his progeny through generations. Great-grandson, Olford Sera-Domino

# A GREAT DAY OF showing

TEXT: THEODOR MIENIE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREW WALLIS,  
WALLIS PHOTOGRAPHY EQUINE

North West region of the Arab Horse Society of South Africa – training show

**S**aturday, 26 September 2015 marked the launch of the North West region of the Arab Horse Society of South Africa's annual Purebred Arabian and General Breed training show.

It was held at the SAPS Mounted Academy in Potchefstroom and was a blessed day, with ideal showing conditions and without serious injury to either horses or riders! Despite various other equestrian events on the calendar during that same weekend, the organisers had 45 horses (20 of whom were purebred Arabs), 37 riders and approximately 180 class entries.

## A GOOD START

The day started at 7:30am with an opening parade for all horses and riders in the main arena, during which time Father Jacques Pieterse of the Parish of St Mary's Anglican Church in Potchefstroom opened with scripture and prayer and shared a moving message about the donkey colt who bore Jesus through several noisy towns without showing fear. He used this story to explain the special relationship we have with horses and as an indication of how we should experience our time with them.

## JUDGES

Several top judges presided over the event. These included:

**Fanie Maritz Sr from Shaheer Arabierperd Stoet, Upington.** Fanie is a Senior and Examining Judge in all categories of the Arabian Breed, Ridden and Performance classes. He started his military training at the erstwhile Berede Sentrum (now Mounted Academy) in Potchefstroom, and after being transferred to De Aar, fell in love with the Arabian horse breed. Fanie has been invited to judge in various countries, including Namibia, Zimbabwe, Israel, Australia, England

and Las Vegas in the USA. His passion and gift is the schooling of horses, and his philosophy as judge is to be honest at all times and to judge strictly according to the rules appropriate to a specific class.

**Helen Gilfillan from Johannesburg.** Helen is an International Level 2 Coach, National Showing Judge, Senior Arabian Judge in Performance, Breed and Ridden as well as Learner Dressage, Welsh Pony and Equitation Judge. Her educational philosophy based on her academic background as a school teacher has influenced her equestrian philosophy of teaching. She strives to create an environment free of mental tension and anxiety, thereby enabling optimum learning. She specialises in establishing correct principles at grass-roots levels for all disciplines.

**Alayne McLean from Klerksdorp.** Alayne is a Level 1 DSA coach, Provincial Panel A Dressage Judge and Provincial Showing Judge. She started riding at the age of 10 and showjumped up to Adult C grade. Alayne started dressage after an accident stopped her jumping career, and got her provincial colours for dressage. Her passion is rehabilitating 'problem' horses and she loves to teach children in the foundation phase and higher levels.

**Chani Swanepoel from Potchefstroom.** Chani is a Learner Showjumping Judge with more than 20 years of showjumping experience. She started jumping competitively at the age of eight, training with some of the top coaches in SA (Trevor Lovgren and Jose Mendez). She represented South Africa for the first time when she was just 12 years old, competing against Zimbabwe. She also represented South Africa in Europe on two occasions. She has won numerous showjumping competitions locally and in Europe. She is currently competing in the Open classes and is training some promising young horses for



Amy Taylor – Rasheeq Bell-Storm



Nhike Botha – Stenco Mezadi

the future. Her equestrian philosophy is to build a good partnership between horse and rider – a relationship based on mutual respect, trust and understanding.

## OFFICIALS

Fanie Rootman, well known in the Arab Horse Society of South Africa for his superb knowledge of the AHSSA constitution and AHSSA rules, acted as ring steward. Fanie is a former Potchefstroomer and now lives in Kempton Park, where he owns Raheema Arabierperd Stoet.



Carol Anne Paterson – El Jamani Shigan



June Roode –  
Amicia Bella Nina



Marcus Roode – Amicia Ala Al Din



Nika Stols and Amicia Akasha



Simone du Plessis – FS Afire Neca



Kimberly Minchin – RA Farhaddinn



Vanessa Klincharska –  
Dentor Arcus

Virginia Klincharska – Ebisu Simply Minuet

Janus Kruger, a very experienced and passionate rider currently in matric in Potchefstroom, and his dad Fanus Kruger, assisted as gate marshal and stable manager respectively.

### SPECIAL THANKS

The committee of the North West Region of AHSSA thanks everybody who sponsored, assisted in whatever way and supported the show. The committee consists of Committee Chair, Marie Louise van Wyk from the Johrhemar

Arabian Stud in Klerksdorp; Vice-Chair, Daan Broodryk from Dhanji Arabians in Rustenburg; Secretary, Bernadette Kasselmann from Ber-Kaz Arabians in Klerksdorp; and additional member, Theodor Mienie.

A special thanks to the SAPS Mounted Academy for the use of the facility and to each and every rider, their trainers, grooms, parents, supporters and, obviously, the horses who entered for the show, thereby ensuring the show's huge success 🐾



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# BREEDERS'

## GALLERY



Cremello Warmblood stallion Midas Touch Atlantis (by Amor out of Southcross Ambrosia). Photographer: Ashleigh K Photography

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Millsleigh Irish Sport Horse and  
Pony Stud

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**Gabriella of Millford Stb Star**  
Age: Rising 5  
Gender: Mare  
Colour: Black  
Breed: Friesian  
Height: 15.3hh (still growing)  
Sire: Tjalf 443 Stb Sport  
Dam: Tamara PJ Stb Ster  
Gabriella of Millford is a beautiful, locally bred, Studbook Star mare. She is a very pretty mare with all the fine features of a modern Friesian. She is sensitive to ride, making her very responsive and light. This mare's natural movement will make her a magnificent dressage horse.  
Price: R170,000  
Contact: Kate Baynes on 082 774 1394 or millfordfarm@yebo.co.za



**Edelman**  
Age: 6 Gender: Gelding Colour: Chestnut  
Breed: KWPN Height: 16.3hh  
Sire: Johnson Dam: Kandy (by Casimir)  
This outstanding Johnson gelding was bred to compete at the highest levels of dressage internationally. Edelman was imported to South Africa as an eight-month-old colt and started his dressage training and competitive career in 2014. He has no vices, trucks easily and is a pleasure to own. He has already competed in the Western Province Showing Championships in 2014 and has also won the Potential Dressage Horse at the Warmblood Championships in Cape Town earlier this year. He is now successfully competing at higher Novice level with scores of up to 70%.  
Price: R490,000  
Contact: Elsa Hall on 082 459 9577 or stellrsa@mweb.co.za



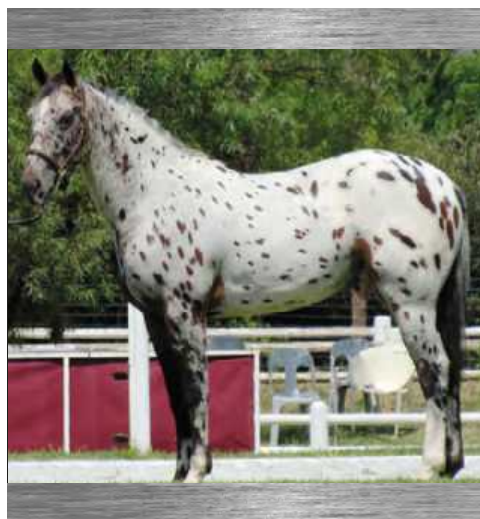
**Saratoga Starry Starry Night**  
Age: Rising 3  
Gender: Gelding  
Colour: Tobiano  
Breed: SAW  
Height: 15.3hh (still growing)  
Sire: Waldemar G  
Dam: Saratoga Skaramouche  
Outstanding gelding by Waldemar G, out of a Carrick mare.  
Exceptionally well-bred horse with the temperament and ability to make a top competition horse.  
Price: R150,000  
Contact: Kim Bray on 084 406 9610



**Firefox**  
Age: 5  
Gender: Stallion  
Colour: Amber champagne  
Breed: Crossbreed  
Height: 14.2hh  
Sire: Rubin  
Firefox is a dream pony. Not only is his amber champagne colouring extremely rare, but he is brave, uncomplicated, generous, kind, beautiful and talented. Lovingly produced, Firefox has shown at HOY and Autumn Gold Cup, has competed in adult Novice dressage (always placing in the top three), jumped 80cm at shows (ready to do 90cm) and will event too. Can be gelded on request. Approved home only.  
Price: R150,000  
Contact: Sarah on 074 117 5120 or superteddy99@gmail.com



**EC Jervauls Battle Lane**  
Age: 5 Gender: Gelding  
Colour: Bay Breed: Irish Sport Horse  
Height: 18hh  
Sire: Battle Chant  
Dam: Mill Hollow's Penny Lane  
King is a lovely youngster with all basic schooling in place. He has stunning floating movement with a rhythmic canter, a big, bold jump and is bombproof in the country. He has a soft mouth, is good off the leg and very responsive to the seat. A very uncomplicated ride who has been brought on slowly and correctly. No vices, boxes like a dream and has been to shows. A top prospect for dressage or showjumping.  
Price: R180,000  
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**Kondos Markos**  
Age: Rising 3  
Gender: Colt  
Colour: Leopard  
Breed: Appaloosa  
Height: Still growing  
Sire: Kondos Ahileas  
Dam: Kondos Gentle Breeze  
South African National Junior Champion Male SA Appaloosa National Championships 2014. Top 3 (Bronze Medal) Champion of Champions Appaloosa for the Year of 2014. Awarded the Supreme Championship Male Appaloosa title at the Horse of the Year Show 2015. Kondos Markos' parents are also SA National Champions at multiple shows in both Appaloosa and All Breed classes.  
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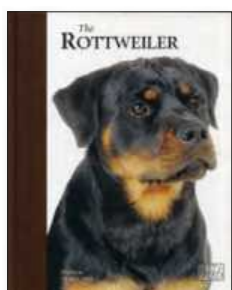
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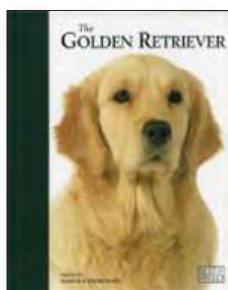
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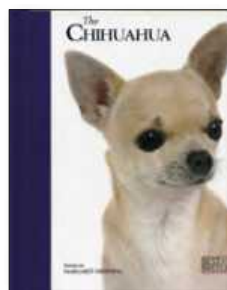
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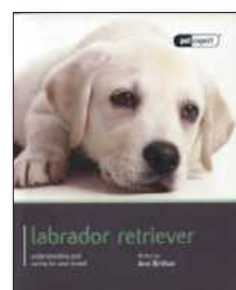
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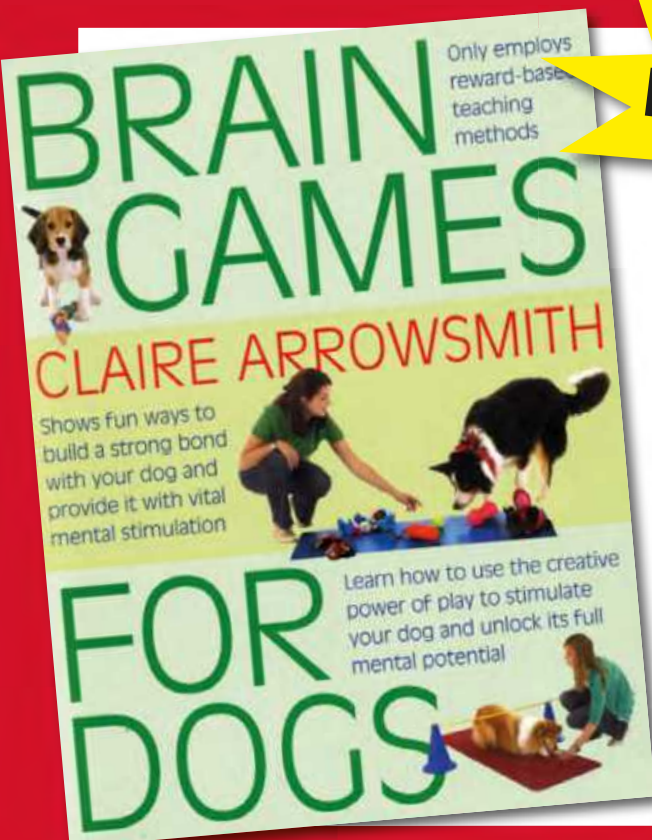
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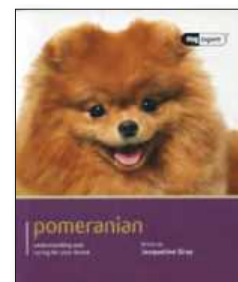
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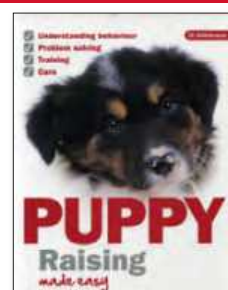
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